Palace choices of Roco replacement down to 2

STORY ON PAGE A2

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MILLIONAIRE/ A7

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Apolitical Mr. Butterfly

By Agnes E. Donato

HE LOVES all kinds of butterflies, except the political types.

Romeo Lumawig has discovered about a hundred species of butterflies, beetles and other insects the past five decades and

APOLITICAL/ A18

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Peace talks near collapse

Gov't negotiating panel in limbo, says official

By Carlito Pablo and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.

THE STALLED peace negotiation between the Macapagal administration and the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) appears headed for collapse, according to an administration official.

The official said the government negotiating panel was placed "in a sort of limbo" after Malacañang released guidelines on dealing with communist rebels that did not explicitly mention the continuation of formal peace talks.

"It (peace process) looks doomed," said the official, who asked not to be named.

The NDF itself has lost interest in reviving the talks. Chief NDF negotiator Luis Jalandoni recommended yesterday to the NDF "to hold under indefinite study" the negotiations with the government. ***(See related story on Page A3.)***

In a statement from the Netherlands, Jalandoni said President Macapagal-Arroyo, who suspended negotiations last year after communist rebels assassinated two legislators, "must be held accountable for destroying the possibility of advancing the peace negotiations."

He said the President "is collaborating with the US in misrepresenting the negotiators, consultants and staffers of the (NDF) as 'terrorists' and oppressing them abroad."

The NDF is an umbrella of rebel groups, including the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) which Washington included in its list of "foreign terrorist organizations" on Aug. 9.

Following the US action, the Dutch, British and Philippine governments vowed to launch separate efforts to track down and block the rebels' assets.

Jalandoni said it was the government that was committing "massive" human rights violations against the people. "This constitutes state terrorism of the worst kind," he said.

Jose Ma. Sison, who is in exile in the Netherlands, indicated that the negotiations with the Macapagal administration would not continue. He said he was helping in the preparations for possible peace negotiations with the successor of Ms Macapagal.

Sison also clarified reports that he was about to retire as NDF chief political consultant. He lambasted Sen. Rodolfo Biazon for insinuating that his reported retirement was an admission of a "failed cause" and abandonment of his comrades.

"When I said that I wanted to retire from the role of chief political consultant of the NDF, I was being sarcastic to and contemptuous of the Macapagal re-

PEACE/ A18

Church warns pols on birth control plan

THE CATHOLIC Church warned politicians yesterday they would face an electoral backlash in 2004 if they pushed for a more aggressive population control program.

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, aired the warning over Church radio. "I'm sure that there (will be) some pressure from the Catholic population," Quevedo said.

A bipartisan group of legislators this month had urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to do more than endorse the Church-approved "natural" family planning methods to address the problem of poverty.

"Those who are very devout Catholics, who know the teachings of the Church, will try to persuade their own representatives in Congress . . . to look at the issue from the point of view of religious or moral principles," Quevedo said.

"That is a responsibility of the citizenry. I imagine that is also the duty of our legislators to listen to their own people. (If not) surely we will remember you in the next elections. That is natural."

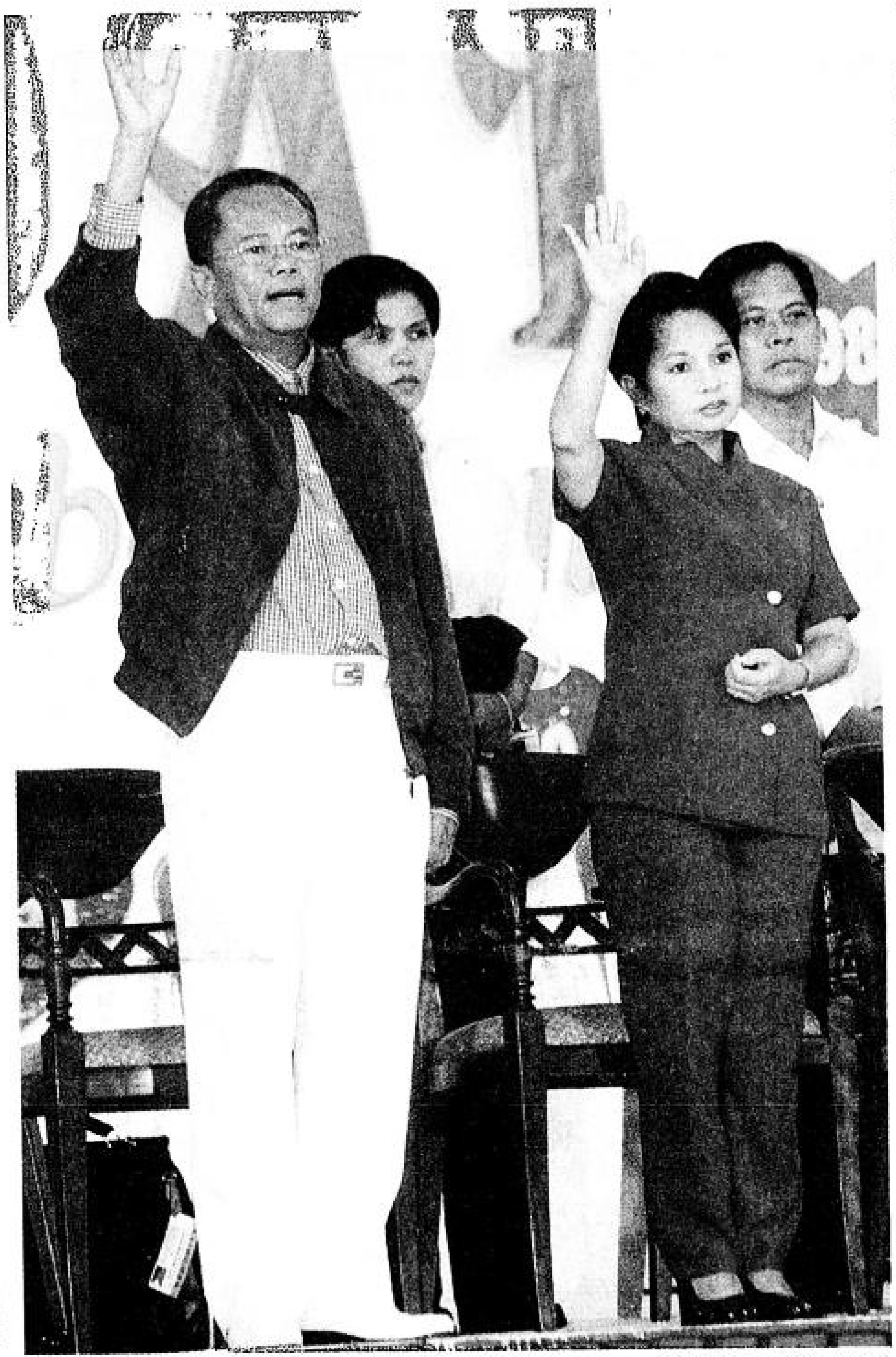
The country, the world's 14th most populous state, is growing at an annual rate of 2.36 percent, with 40 percent of its population of 80 million aged 15 or below. But the Church bans artificial birth control methods to curb the high birth rate.

In a statement read before an overnight gathering of Catholic youth at the Folk Arts Theater in Manila, Archbishop of Manila Jaime Cardinal Sin also sounded the call for stronger family values.

Sin said he was alarmed over the breakdown of Filipino families and asked people to join ongoing activities for next year's World Meeting of Families. "There is that big temptation for everything to break down," Sin said.

"Sad to say, we are confronted today with so many break-ups. Traditions are dis-

CHURCH/ A20



EL SHADDAI BLESSINGS PCPO-MALACAÑANG PHOTO

President Macapagal and El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde praise the Lord during the 18th anniversary eucharistic celebration of the religious group's dwXI Prayer Partners Foundation International.

GMA praises El Shaddai 'anointment'

By Carlito Pablo

AN "ANOINTMENT from God."

The President yesterday waxed biblical at the 18th anniversary of El Shaddai, the vote-rich Catholic charismatic group that many believe was responsible for electing her deposed predecessor Joseph Estrada in 1998.

But the "anointment" she referred to was not the group's election endorsement but its continuing existence.

"If it was the handiwork of man," President Macapagal-Arroyo said, "then it will not reach 18 years."

"But this is truly the blessings of El Shaddai," she added.

The President also showered acclaim on El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde, who celebrates his birthday tomorrow.

"I would always prefer to sit in front of the stage to listen attentively to Brother Mike," Ms Macapagal said in her impromptu remarks.

The President recalled that when she was still a senator and then Vice President, she and some of her former classmates would attend El Shaddai prayer rallies.

"Truly, this man (Velarde) is anointed," the President recalled one of her classmates say about Velarde.

Before her speech, the President and Velarde stood as godmother and godfather to 13 couples who exchanged vows in a mass wedding ceremony officiated by Bishop Teodoro Bacani, the group's spiritual adviser.

El Shaddai, which counts millions of followers, was assiduously courted by presidential wannabes in the 1992 and 1998 elections.

The El Shaddai faithful knew Estrada

GMA/ A20

Paper trail casts doubt on Palace plot vs Roco

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

TO DETERMINE whether Malacañang plotted to scuttle the presidential election chances of Raul Roco, it is useful to follow the paper trail of the complaint against Roco, which triggered his resignation as education secretary.

This reconstruction is based on interviews with, among others, Dario Rama, chair of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission; sources inside the Palace; and some journalists covering President Macapagal-Arroyo.

It is put in the context of the Ibon Foundation survey of July 11-28, which found that if elections were held at the time, Roco would have been elected with 19.96 percent of the votes. Former President Joseph Estrada would be second with 14.08 percent and Ms Macapagal third with 11.13 percent.

The following is the sequence of events:

The Ibon survey results were released on Aug. 1 and published in the press on Aug. 2.

On Aug. 1, Erlinda de Leon, an assistant at the Office of the President, endorsed, with a cover letter, a letter of complaint against Roco to Rama.

The letter of complaint, dated July 11, came from the Department of Education (DepEd) Cen-

PAPER/ A18

Acsa's faith faces severe test anew

The ACSAdental Suspect

June 14	Bonsalagen account opened; Ramirez reports suspicions to branch manager and then to bank VP
June 16	Ramirez reports other suspicious accounts to bank VP
July 30	After audit, bank files charges vs. branch manager
Aug. 2	In mid-interview at the NBI, Ramirez is called into press briefing. GMA presents her in Filipino. "The bank manager did not report (the illegal transaction). Now the cashier."
Aug. 5	NBI agent Aguto apologizes to Ramirez in bank head office
Aug. 6	Ramirez holds tearful press briefing; in letter to Palace, Wycoco denies Ramirez was presented as a suspect.
Aug. 7	Wycoco adds: "Nobody told us she was the whistle-blower."

THE ACSADENTAL/ A19

By Philip Tubeza

IT SEEMS only fitting that Acsa Ramirez, the Landbank cashier wrongfully presented as a suspect in a presidential photo-op on Aug. 2, got her name from the Bible—from the Old Testament book of Joshua, in fact. She is undergoing a crisis Biblical in its intensity.

On the Sunday after the presentation, Ramirez and her husband gathered enough strength to attend church. The couple went to the altar and the minister, and the whole congregation prayed over them.

"I asked Him what His plans are for me. I asked why it had to be me. It's very hard," said Ramirez, a born-again Christian.

She said she had found comfort in her faith, especially while reading the Bible. "When you have questions, you read the Bible and you'll find the answers," she added.

She has been doing a lot of Bible reading lately.

Ramirez, her husband Feliciano and officers of the Landbank of the Philippines Employees Association visited the INQUIRER office Friday night to shed light on her unusual predicament.

It was Ramirez who blew the whistle on the P203-million tax diversion scam at the Binangonan, Rizal, branch of the Landbank. As early as June 14, she reported her suspicions about the so-called Bonsalagen account to her branch manager—Artemio San Juan, now

ACSA'S/ A19

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'FACES OF FASCISM' JOAN BONDOC

Members of the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno present poverty, militarization and US intervention under the Macapagal administration's "strong republic" during a press conference.

Second FRONT PAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Western section of Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/19/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Search for Roco successor narrows

By Carlito Pablo and Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MALACAÑANG has narrowed down to two male educators its choice for education secretary to replace Raul Roco who resigned last week, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye indicated yesterday.

Bunye, however, declined to identify the candidates except to hint that "they are respected in their fields" and "they are not political persons."

"The President said she gave the go-signal for the sounding off of the first candidate and if that candidate says he's available, then the President can already make the announcement," Bunye said.

Why President Macapagal-Arroyo would prefer a non-politician to replace Roco, a politician who placed third in the 1998 presidential election, Bunye could not quite say.

"They just happen to be there," Bunye answered somewhat vaguely.

Among the names that have been mentioned are a former education under-secretary, Nilo Rosas; Emmanuel Angeles, the CEO of the Clark Development Corp. and a former president of the Angeles University Foundation; former education secretary Alejandro Roces, lately the head of the movie censors board, and Edilberto de Jesus, Far Eastern University president.

Interviewed in Angeles City yesterday, Angeles said he "felt honored and privileged to be considered," adding that he was not aspiring for the post.

Asked if he would accept the DepEd post if offered, Angeles said: "I prefer to stay at the CDC."

Happy at Clark

"I am happy in the task of developing Clark as an investor's haven for the economic recovery of the country," he said.

Ms Macapagal had appointed Angeles as president and chief executive officer of the CDC in February 2001.

Under his watch, Clark reportedly clinched 75 new projects with committed investments worth P46.27 billion for a five-year period starting last year. This amount was 51.45 percent of the P89.95-billion of overall committed investments in Clark since 1992.

Angeles headed the family-owned Angeles University Foundation (AUF) for 42 years and helped transform it from a technology institute into a "center of excellence," a category designated by the Commission on Higher Education.

The late President Diosdado Macapagal, the President's father, was chair of the AUF's board of trustees for 10 years until his death in 1998.

Ms Macapagal chaired the AUF board for less than two years. She relinquished the post immediately after she was elected vice president in 1998.

Backfire

Meanwhile, House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said yesterday that if Roco had resigned the education post because of his presidential ambition, then he should not accept any new post from the President.

"To accept a post would backfire on him and he'll be viewed as a traditional politician," Gonzales, a member of the majority Lakas-NUCD, said in a phone interview.

Roco had resigned in protest against the President's endorsing a graft complaint against him to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission.

Some legislators have suggested that the apparent rivalry between Ms Macapagal and Roco threatens to cause a split in the ruling People's Power Coalition ahead of the 2004 presidential polls.

Gonzales said, however, that Lakas would continue to support the President's candidacy in 2004 and that it was unlikely that even a few party mates would join forces with Roco.

As for Lakas' coalition partners, Gonzales pointed out that the President has been designated "honorary" chair of the Liberal Party while the National People's Coalition has continued to back her.

"Whether you like it or not, she's the incumbent president," Gonzales said.

Another capacity

A majority congressman said the Senate and House leadership should show first that they are capable of passing administration bills before they make bold pronouncements of solid Congress support for the President.

The legislator, who asked not to be named, asked how Speaker Jose de Venecia could declare that Lakas was solidly behind the President when the administration party has failed to pass much of her legislative agenda.

He said that at the House alone, the leadership could not even muster a quorum in plenary discussions, delaying the passage of several administration bills.

"It's far from reality, he's giving the President false hopes," he said of De Venecia's pronouncements. ***With a report from Christine Avendaño***

Loren next on GMA's 'hit list'?

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

MILITANT groups yesterday warned Sen. Loren Legarda she could be the next target of the "elimination" campaign supposedly being waged by President Macapagal-Arroyo against her allies who have become threats to her presidential bid in 2004.

"Any political party or potential opponent considered a threat is a vulnerable target of Ms Macapagal's political repression just to cling to power way beyond 2004," said Rafael Mariano, chair of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP).

"Senator Legarda might be the next target of the staunch US puppet in Malacañang," Mariano said.

Legarda, the senate majority floor leader and a member of the ruling Lakas-NUCD party, has been critical of the way Ms Macapagal handled the investigation of a graft complaint against former education secretary Raul Roco, who resigned.

The President's endorsement of the graft complaint against Roco came on the same day the Ibon Foundation released its survey findings that showed Roco would handily beat Ms Macapagal if the elections were held today. In second place was jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada.

Legarda, a popular former broadcast journalist, landed in the Top 6 list of "presidentiables" chosen by respondents in the Ibon survey.

Mariano said the ruling People Power Coalition could face political disintegration due to Ms Macapagal's escalating "political repression."

Speaker Jose de Venecia on Saturday said the entire leadership of the ruling Lakas, including all 16 regional chairs, was behind Ms Macapagal as the PPC's candidate for president in 2004.

But Mariano said "the balance of forces within the PPC is still very fragile."

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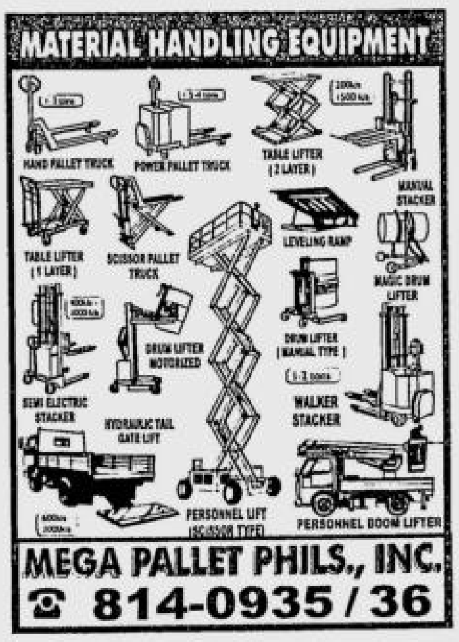
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Reds hit massive gov't abuses

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE COMMUNIST-LED National Democratic Front said its negotiators have recommended that peace talks with the government be placed under "indefinite study" because of the "massive human rights violations" allegedly being committed by the police and military.

Luis Jalandoni, who chairs the NDF's negotiating panel, said the rights violations "(constituted) state terrorism of the worst kind."

Citing partial documentation of the alleged violations from Jan. 22, 2001 to July 15, 2002, Jalandoni said there were a total of 1,334 recorded cases involving 37,164 victims, including 1,265 families and 38 communities.

"These include cases of killings, massacres, forced disappearances, torture, forced evacuation, destruction of property, food blockades," he said.

In the area of agrarian reform, Jalandoni said more than 163,000 families were adversely affected by land use conversions, the cancellation of certificates of land ownership award (CLOA), emancipation patents (EP) and certificates of land transfer (CLT), and government-backed projects like the cassava project in Isabela of controversial businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

Jalandoni also said 226 cases of human rights violations have been documented in the labor front from January 2001 to June 2002, 118 of which were violent assaults on picket lines.

He said these violations consisted of harassment, physical assaults, mauling, intimidation, sexual harassment, coercion, grave threats, illegal arrests and detention, violent dispersal of picket lines, surveillance of trade union leaders and other brutal forms of abuse of workers' rights.

Jalandoni said the government, instead of complying with the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL), was escalating state terrorism.

It has refused to set up the joint monitoring committee to handle complaints of human rights violations as provided for in the CARHRIHL, he said.

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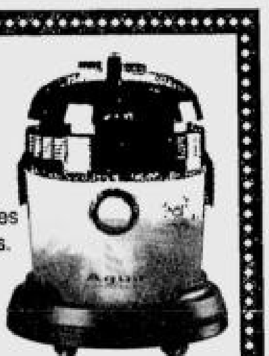

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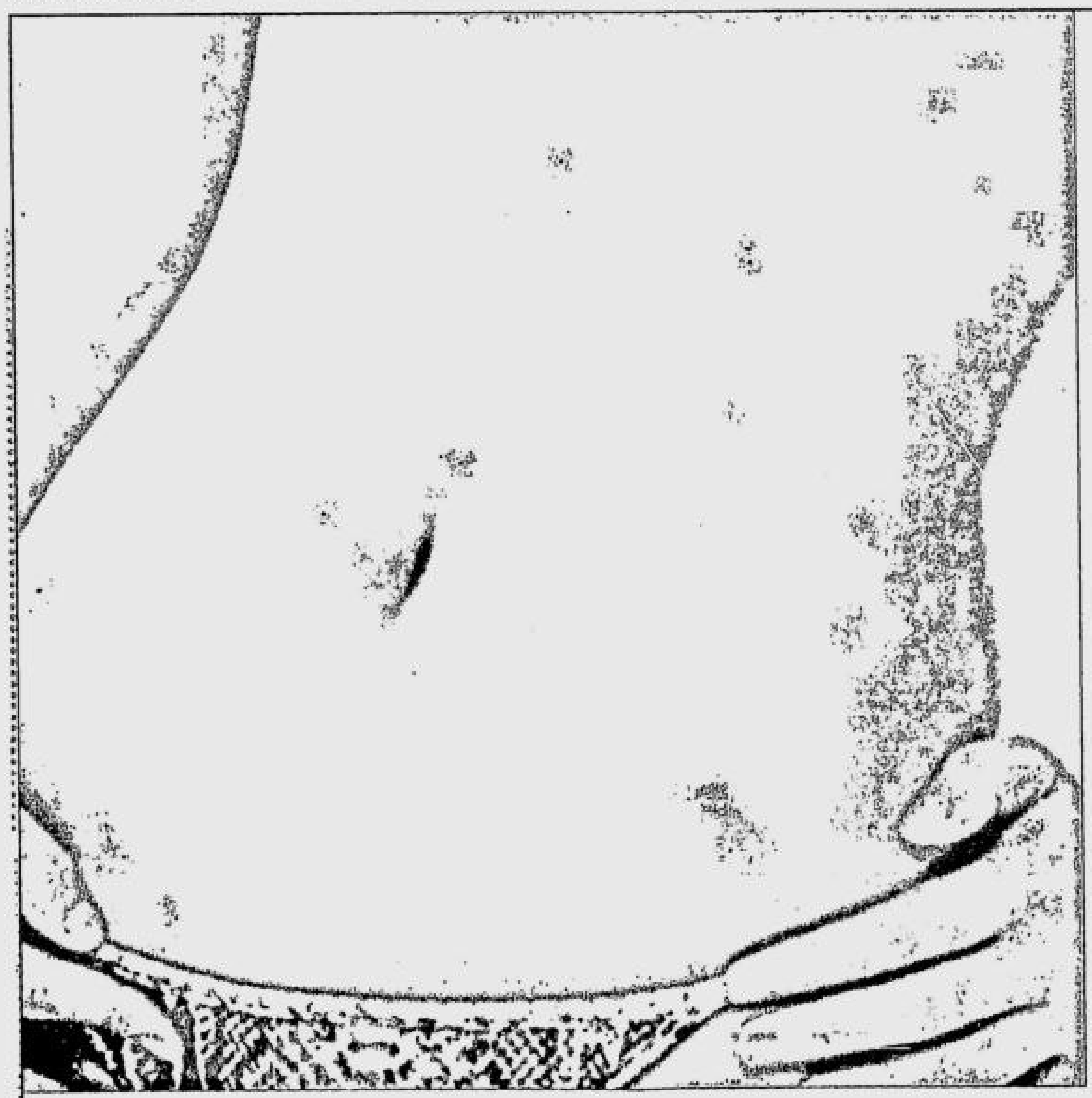

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Message

My warmest felicitations to our kababayans in the Province of Quezon as you hold the 1st Coco-Banana Festival and inauguration of the Quezon Convention Center.

This twin occasion, coinciding with the 124th Birth Anniversary of Pres. Manuel L. Quezon, parallels our administration's efforts to promote tourism and the local banana and coconut to foreign markets. Specifically, the festival will boost our efforts to prove that our produce can pass the strictest quarantine procedures and quality standards while the new convention center will definitely be an added tourist attraction for your province.

I congratulate the local officials and all the people behind the realization of these projects. They demonstrate the capability of local government units to spur local development and contribute to national progress. May this festival and new edifice strengthen the solidarity of Quezonians, especially the stakeholders in the coconut and banana industries as we proceed to confront the challenges posed by globalization through effective governance.

Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate this year's awardees of the Quezon Medalya ng Karangalan Awards. May your example be replicated all around the country for a strong republiccan only be attained and sustainedby a society of empowered and responsible citizens working for the common good.

Mabuhay!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Republic of the Philippines

Message

I wish to extend my personal greetings to this year's "Natatanging Mamamayan ng Lalawigan ng Quezon" for exemplifying exceptional achievements in their field of expertise that illumined the image of all Quezonians not only in Quezon and in the Philippines but also in other places in the world.

Also, my congratulations go to the Quezon Day Awards Committee who shared quality time from the start to the concluding day of the search.

On August 19, 2002, a fitting occasion shall be dedicated to the five Medalya ng Karangalan awardees – Archbishop Angel N. Lagdameo, Spiritual Leadership, Engr. Dennis A. Abcede, Construction Management, Retired Judge Proceso K.de Gala, Government Service, Benito J. Brizuela, Printing Industry, and Salvii S. Casino, Broadcast Management and three special awardees – Richard Kristoffer S. Manapat, Physics Research, DOH Secretary Manuel Eusebio M. Dayrit, Public Health Management, and Venancio "Tata Insik" Adornado, Environmental Protection.

May this be an inspiring day for all Quezonians. "Sa Pagsulong ng Quezon, Kasama Ako."

WILFRIDO L. ENVERGA
Governor

Message

We take pride and honor in having been tasked to chair once again our prestigious Quezon Day Awards Committee which was specially privileged to nominate the recipients of the Medalya ng Karangalan for Year 2002.

Our group was composed of representatives from the four districts of our beloved Quezon Province – all recognized and acknowledged in their respective fields of endeavor. They were chosen from among many nominees with impeccable integrity and high sense of idealism and fairness. The individual merit and qualifications of the Quezon Day Awards Committee members enabled us to finalize the list of deserving awardees for this year without much hardship.

We performed our delicate function with the thought that the integrity and legacy of the Quezon Medalya ng Karangalan rests in our hands. With the guidance of the Good Lord – we humbly feel we accomplished fully our noble mandate. Of course, we realize that the test of time is the final arbiter of the soundness of our choices.

So, as we congratulate the Quezon Medalya ng Karangalan Awardees 2002 and the Special Awardees – we fervently pray that they will continue to cherish and propagate their noble ideals and virtues for which they were nominated. Our model of course, is our dear kababayan, President Manuel Luis Quezon.

The Awards Committee could not have accomplished its assignment in the most facilitated and systematic manner were it not for the grant of full autonomy by Governor Wilfrido L. Enverga. We also acknowledge the confidence given to us by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan headed by Vice Governor Jovito E. Talabong – which body confirmed our nominations in candid, unanimous fashion.

MABUHAY po tayong lahat!

ANTONIO P. ACYATAN
QDAC Chair 2001-2003

QUEZON: Working for the Legacy of Excellence

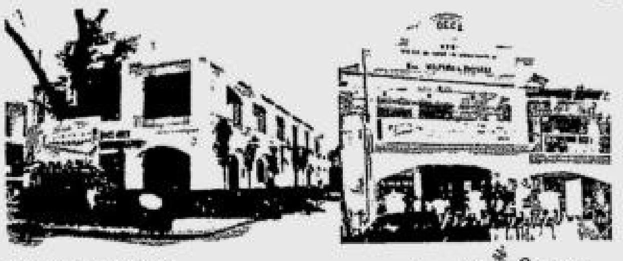
Left Wing

Basketball Court and Stage

Right Wing

Excellence is achieved a step at a time, at definite paces and with perseverance. It is a state where one has assumed the winning edge imbibed with the spirit to soar higher and explore more fields of success.

"I would say that despite the tumultuous economic and political times our country has gone through, we have surfaced as a province with the support of both the government and private sector in bringing about the different thrusts of the "Sulong Quezon II, Governor Willie Enverga, the province chief executive, stated during his State of the Province Address (SoPA, July 1, 2002)



The twin building: The new Governor's Office and Governor's Office Annex.

Quezon National High School

The Governor's report emphasized determined efforts in attaining excellence in every cornerstone of his administration. In the field of education, P30M was allocated for public school buildings in Lopez, Mauban, Tiaong and Lucena City (Quezon National High School).

Fourteen dialysis machines were granted to the province by Camp Dorset Lion's Club of Canada and became part of the Dialysis Center, being constructed at P5M.

Agricultural programs were boosted through seminars and training of Food Always in the Home (FAITH), animal dispersal, Ginintuang Ani Program, Kabuhayan sa Niyugan and distribution of fingerlings, seedlings and farm machines. Bananas as second leading product of Quezon is being pushed by linking with Heinz-UFC.

Social services were extended to the disadvantaged sector through CIDSS program implementation which amounted to P13M.

Solid waste management program was attended to with the allocation of P1M for each municipality with such programs. Likewise, 5 tree parks were established and 4 municipalities with flood problems underwent rip-rapping of canals. Task Force Kalikasan REINA was created to monitor and curb illegal logging activities in the Northern Quezon area.

The 503.68 kilo shabu seized from Patnanungan town supported the administration's effort to eradicate drug trafficking which for sometime was a hot issue in the provincial and national level.

From July 2001 to this date 18, health centers, 27 day care centers, 12 public toilets, 514 post harvest facilities, 122 roads and bridges, 64 water works sytems, 446 buildings including the Quezon Convention Center and the Governor's Building Annex were constructed at a cost of P147.2M.

The province was able to settle its loan amortization on heavy equipment and other standing balance it owes from financial institutions.

The Adopt-A-Municipality program gained for the province a record-breaking success because it strengthened the ties between the local government units and the provincial government.

To make the coming year more auspicious and the legacy of excellent delivery of service assured to the province and its people, program thrusts include the operation of the Batching Plant and the Quezon Convention Center, completion of the building for the Kidney Center; construction of school buildings in Infanta Sariaya, and Gumaca; livelihood programs for women and youth, boost tourism programs through promotion of cultural activities, development of historical sites, beautification of Perez Park, Butterfly and Aviary Gardens and preservation of Mt. Banahaw.

Moreover, the 90.40% mark it got from DILG's Local Productivity and Performance Measurement System is proof enough that the province is taking its stride at the right pace and direction. The Govenor believes there is no mountain too high and seas too deep, if there are supportive and participative citizens. Armed with determination and political will, the WORK towards the LEGACY of EXCELLENCE (WLE) is just a throw away.

Hey wait! **WLE** also stands for **WILFRIDO L. ENVERGA.**

COCO-BANANA Festival

Combined from coconut and banana, the Provincial Government of Quezon boldly schemes on pushing these products all the way through a festive agri-tourism bustle, the 1st Quezon Coco-Banana Festival.

The festival features the offshoots from coconut and banana on hand by colorful and creatively adorned farm carts prop up by street dancers dressed with costumes extracted from indigenous materials. Highlight of the festival includes the 'pinaka' contest for products produced from coconut and banana, food festival and agri-fair.

Inspired by the agricultural project "Kabuhayan sa Ilalim ng Niyugan" which aimed at reviving the dwindling coconut industry through alternative planting of other products such as fruit bearing trees, and vegetables and the opportunity to open another door of hope for Quezon farmers when Quezon banana passed the quality test of UFC-HEINZ, Governor Wilfrido L. Enverga conceptualizes an agri-tourism program that will boost and revive the production spirit of our coconut and banana farmers.

1st Quezon COCO-BANANA Festival

"Sa Pagsulong ng Quezon, Kasama Ako"

August 19 – "MA-KASAYSAYANG ARAW"
7 a.m. Mass and Flower Offering (Quezon Monument)
9 p.m. **Blessing and Inauguration of Quezon Convention Center (QCC) and Governor's Office Annex Bldg.**
10 a.m. Awarding of Medalya ng Karangalan (QCC)
1 p.m. Coco-Banana Parade
Opening of Agri-Fair (Perez Park)
7 p.m. Laser Show
8 p.m. "Jammin sa Quezon" (QCC)

August 20 – "MAKA-SINING"
9 a.m. Painting Exhibit/Photo Contest (QCC Lobby)

August 21- "MAY PANGKABUHAYAN PA"
8 a.m. Food Festiva (QCC)
Livelihood Training (QCC)
Pinaka Contests (Perez Park)

August 22-23 - Seminar sa "KORESPONDENSYA SA WIKANG PILIPINO"

MGA GAGAWARAN NG

Quezon MEDALYA NG KARANGALAN 2002

Engr. DENNIS A. ABCEDE
Construction Management

Archbishop ANGEL N. LAGDAMEO
Spiritual Leadership

Benito J. Brizuela
Printing Industry

Retired Judge Proceso K. de Gala
Government Service

Salvii S. Casino
Broadcast Management

TANGING GAWAD

DOH Secretary Manuel Eusebio M. Dayrit
Public Health Management

Richard Kristoffer S. Manapat
Physics Research

Venancio "Tata Insik" Adornado
Environmental Protection
(Posthumous)

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Honorary Chairman

Atty. Antonio P. Acyatan
Second District, Chairperson

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2 girls, 5 rebels slain in latest clash

BAGANGA, Davao Oriental—Two girls, aged 5 and 6, were killed when they were caught in the crossfire between New People's Army rebels and attacking government troops before dawn yesterday.

Five rebels were also killed in the clash.

The military said one of those killed was a high-ranking NPA official identified as "Ka Ronson," leader of the NPA's Front Guerrilla Unit 15 based in this town.

Maj. Alexis Gopico, chief of the Army's 8th Special Forces Battalion, said his troops, numbering about 100, attacked the rebels' camp in Sitio Nursery, Barangay Binondo at 3:30 a.m. yesterday.

He said four rebels were wounded in the 30-minute firefight.

He said the two slain girls, who were unidentified, might have been the children of NPA rebels or "possibly daughters of civilians who frequented the rebels' camp."

Two soldiers belonging to the 27th and 30th Special Forces Cos. were also wounded. They were identified as Pfc. Genaro Casim and Pvt. Benjie Edmilao.

As of press time, two MG-520 attack helicopters continued to pound the rebels' lair in Barangay Binondo.

The NPA, through its provincial spokesperson, said they were still verifying if Ka Ronson was one of the casualties.

The NPA spokesperson said "many innocent civilians were killed in the military attack," which was staged not in the rebels' camp but in the "civilian communities."

The military considers Baganga and neighboring Cateel, Boston and Caraga towns as NPA strongholds.

The military has stepped up operations against the NPA after the United States included the group in its list of terrorist organizations to be targeted in its war on international terrorism. ***Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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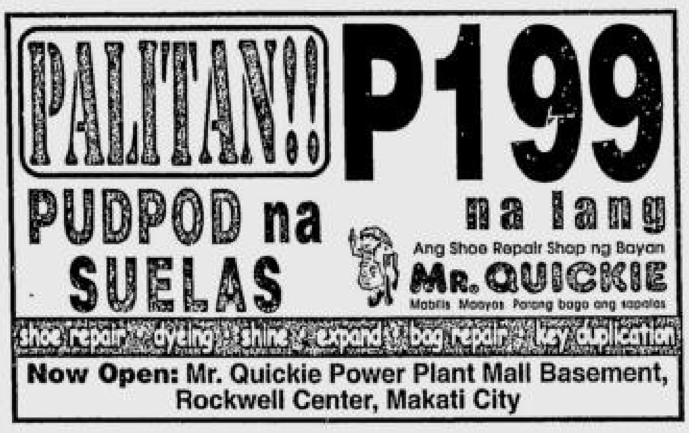

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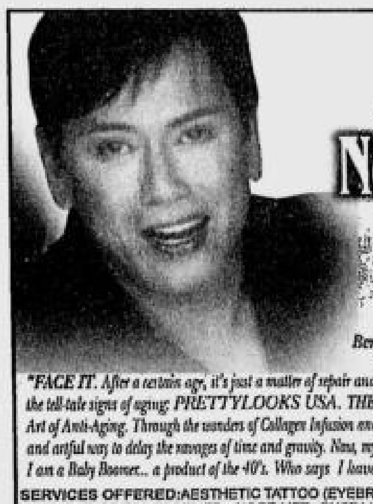

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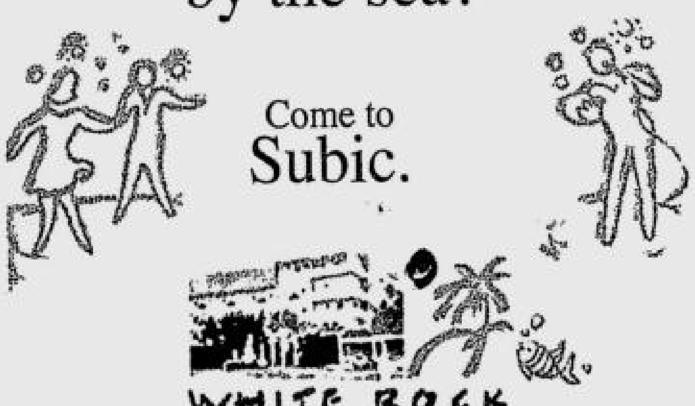

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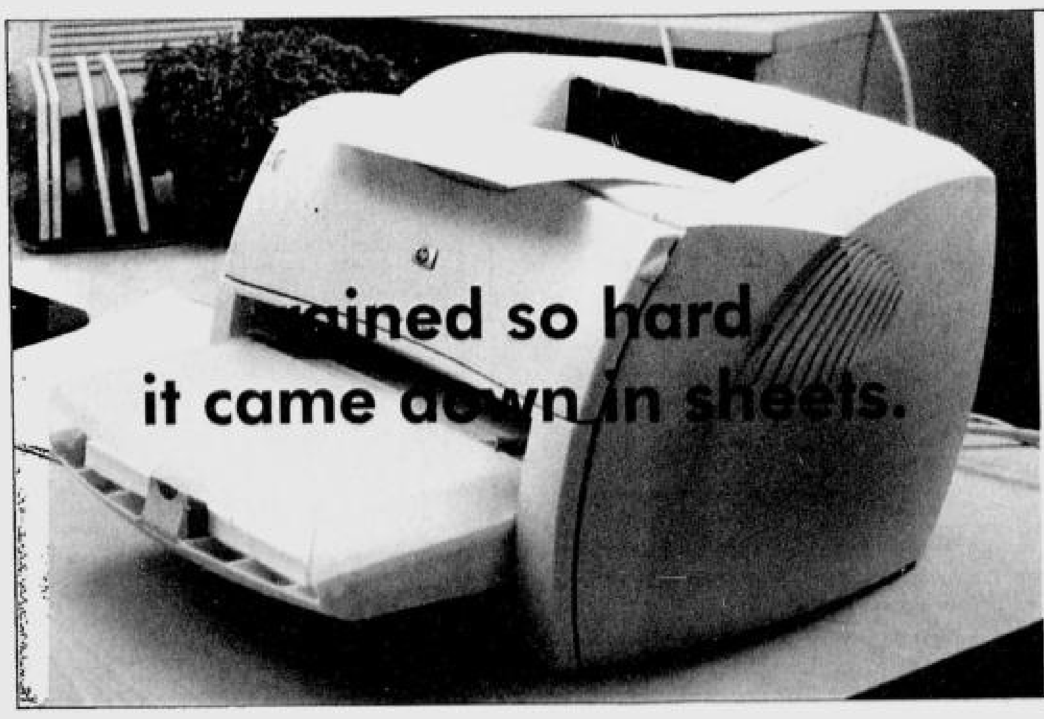

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RP urges Iraq to allow arms checks

By Norman Bordadora

LOOKING out for Filipino workers in the Middle East, the Philippines has urged the Iraqi government to comply with the United Nations resolutions on weapons inspections in order to avert a war with the United States.

But Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople said the Philippine government has made no offer to assist the US in its reported plan to take military action against Baghdad. "Nor has the US asked," he added.

Joining other countries in the call for compliance with Security Council resolutions urging the opening of Iraq to weapons inspections, Ople said, "The Philippines has a vital stake in the peace and stability of the region."

Foremost, he said, was the safety of about 1.5 million overseas foreign workers in the Middle East.

In a statement, Ople said he has instructed the country's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York to take an active part in seeking a peaceful and meaningful solution to the impasse between the US and Iraq.

Likewise, he announced that the Department of Foreign Affairs would henceforth take "a more active part" in the formulation of RP-US bilateral defense policies, possibly including the proposed Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement (MLSA).

A new RP-US Defense Policy Board was recently established following talks between Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in Washington last week.

"I look forward to the activation of the board," he said, "and I am confident that this new consultative mechanism will enhance our military and security cooperation with the United States."

Among the issues expected to be tackled by the bilateral body are: the passage of the MLSA, continuation of Balikatan exercises in light of current local terrorist concerns, and the Philippines' continued support of the US war against international terrorism.

The Philippine side's final draft of the MLSA has been turned over to the US side for perusal.

Ople said the new board's functions would not overlap with those of existing defense consultative mechanisms, such as the RP-US Council of Foreign Ministers and the Mutual Defense Board. These two bodies were formed under the framework of the RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty of 1951.

Meanwhile, Ople has brought into the DFA one of his trusted lieutenants in the Marcos government's Ministry of Labor, which he used to head.

Arturo Brion is now his undersecretary for special projects, whose primary task would be to oversee OFWs. The role was vacated by Merlin Magallona, former undersecretary for migrant workers affairs, who resigned after Vice President Teofisto Guingona left the DFA.

The new undersecretary might join the consular teams that the DFA chief sent to Bongao Island in Tawi-Tawi to assist immigration and social welfare teams in receiving Filipino returnees from Sabah, Malaysia.

E Timor PM meets with GMA

EAST Timor's Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri met with President Macapagal-Arroyo at Malacañang Saturday for a formal dinner, Palace officials said.

Alkatiri paid a brief courtesy call on Ms Macapagal before proceeding to the dinner, which was also attended by the finance and economic planning secretaries of the Philippines, the officials said.

No further details were revealed, however, about the meeting which was held under tight security.

Earlier, the Department of Foreign Affairs said Alkatiri would discuss human development aid, military training and Dili's application for observer status in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, in his meeting with Macapagal.

Manila has offered English language instruction as well as training for the new nation's armed forces, the officials said. *AFP*

Late reinforcements to blame for Lamitan escape, officer says

By Martin P. Marfil

AN ARMY colonel, who is among those being blamed for the June 2, 2001 military bungling in Lamitan, Basilan, said the late arrival of reinforcements promised by higher-ups contributed to the escape of the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group.

In a television interview aired yesterday, Col. Juvenal Narcise, former commander of the 103rd Brigade based in Lamitan, said he had been promised troops belonging to the counter-terrorist force (AFP-CTF) and a Marine company as reinforcements.

The troops were supposed to arrive at noon that day for the assault on the bandit group. Instead, Narcise recounted, the reinforcements entered Lamitan at 9 p.m., or about three-and-a-half hours after the Abus had left the St. Peter's Church-Jose Torres hospital compound with their hostages.

"I really needed reinforcements at that time . . . I don't know why they were delayed," Narcise said. "Maybe these are the 'operational lapses' that my superiors had told me about. I waited for six to seven hours."

The beleaguered colonel's account was bolstered by a report on the incident made by Brig. Gen. Reynaldo Rivera, Army inspector general at the time. The report noted a lack of troops, which upset efforts to cordon off the area and prevent the targets' escape.

Had the added troops arrived within two hours as promised, the report added, "government forces could have finished off the enemy."

The same report said national government officials contributed to the delay. The pursuit operations had been temporarily halted, it said, to secure the whole of Lamitan for visiting VIPs who stayed for four hours.

Narcise said that then AFP chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes had visited his post after Lamitan was cleared. He refused to comment on his superiors' culpability.

Together with Maj. Gen. Romeo Dominguez and Major Eliso Campued, Narcise had been recommended for court martial by a joint Senate committee which investigated the alleged collusion between the military and the Abu Sayyaf.

Check polluting IPPs, solon urges

AKBAYAN party-list Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales has urged the inter-agency committee that recently reviewed the contracts of the independent power producers (IPPs) to review the health and environmental status of five of the power plants as well.

The five firms, which reportedly caused pollution in their areas, were among the 35 companies whose contracts were studied. Of the 35 contracts, 29 were considered to have flaws detrimental to the government interest.

She identified the plants as the Sual plant in Pangasinan, the Pagbilao and Mauban plants in Quezon and the Masinloc, Zambales and Calaca, Batangas coal-fired plants. ***Christine O. Avendaño***

NBI mulls more raps vs Ping

WHETHER he was no. 1 or no. 51 in surveys, we would still have filed charges against him."

This was NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco's response yesterday to accusations that the bureau's filing of criminal charges last Friday against Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson was a "hatchet job."

Wycoco said the NBI might even file additional charges against the senator this week, in relation to properties worth a total of P150 million.

Lacson, who was elected in May last year, was charged last Friday before the Office of the Ombudsman with perjury and non-disclosure of assets in his statement of assets and liabilities and net worth (SALN) for 2001.

The undisclosed assets included a luxury car import-export business and a $246,000 account at Bank of America, under the name of the senator and his wife Alice.

"There is nothing political about these charges," Wycoco insisted. "We have been investigating him for more than one and a half years."

Wycoco said the bureau was currently reviewing evidence in relation to, among other things, two mansions—one in Ayala Alabang and another in BF Homes Parañaque.

The NBI would decide on the additional charges by the "middle or end" of this week, Wycoco said.

Senate observers said Lacson should also be charged administratively for his alleged offenses.

Ethics committee chair Sen. Francis Pangilinan said it would be "prudent" to first allow the criminal case already pending in court to proceed. ***Philip C. Tubeza, with Rocky Nazareno***

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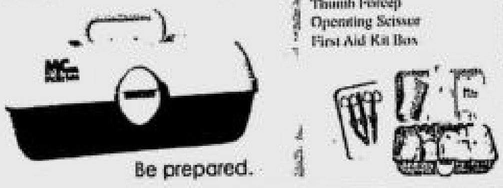

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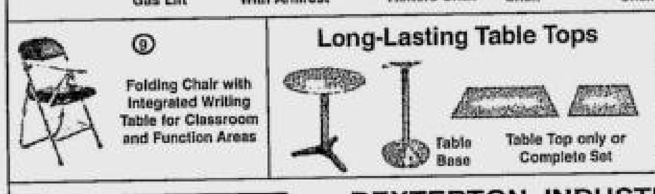

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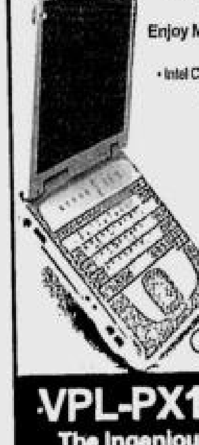

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Millionaire officials run cleanest gov'ts

From page A1

In Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan, top officials earn more than their American or European counterparts, and analysts say it is no accident that they are also reputed to have Asia's cleanest and most efficient governments.

Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong was earning more than US$1 million during an economic boom in 2000, making him one of the world's best-paid leaders, before salaries were cut in 2001, thanks to a recession.

But he still draws a gross annual salary of over $600,000 a year, excluding variable bonuses linked to the performance of the economy, which is projected to grow by at least 3 percent this year.

There was grumbling among ordinary Singaporeans when top officials were granted steep pay rises in 2000 under a formula linked to private-sector salaries, but the government defended it as necessary to woo the best and the brightest to public service, and keep them there.

"There is a direct correlation between economic efficiency and wealth and the professionalism and salaries of civil servants and elected officials," said Australian economist, author and Asia watcher Michael Backman.

Peanuts

"The old saying that if you pay peanuts, you get monkeys is true everywhere, including in Asia, and monkeys are not good decision makers," said Backman, who believes Singapore government salaries "are not a dollar too high."

US President George W. Bush earns $400,000 a year, while the European Union's best-paid leader, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, pulls down about $262,000 annually, according to a recent European survey.

Hong Kong chief executive Tung Chee-hwa earns about $800,000 a year, with his top secretaries earning around $500,000.

"Satisfactory remuneration is a prerequisite to combat corruption. If you can't make ends meet, then the temptation to receive bribes is high," said Joseph Cheng, a political analyst at the City University in Hong Kong.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi reported an income of about $307,000 for the year to March 2002; Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa, $415,000, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda, $282,750, and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Takeo Hiranuma, $273,000.

RP leaders

Contrast that with the Philippines, where President Macapagal-Arroyo receives an annual salary of $24,000, while Cabinet members receive about $9,600, excluding "discretionary funds" that can be drawn upon for various purposes.

Ms Macapagal's ousted predecessor, Joseph Estrada, is currently on trial for allegedly plundering $80 million during just 30 months in power.

But he pales in comparison to former dictator Ferdinand Marcos, accused of amassing billions of dollars over two decades until he was deposed by a popular revolt in 1986. He died in exile before he could be brought to trial.

"These salaries are unrealistic, laughable and official hypocrisy and only indicates that corruption exists," said Nelson Navarro, a political commentator in Manila. "How do you reconcile your small salary with the imperial lifestyle you are supposed to lead?"

Indonesia

Another fallen Southeast Asian dictator, Indonesia's Suharto, is now said to be too ill to stand trial on corruption charges.

There has been no public disclosure of salaries and benefits received by top Indonesian officials, but a study showed that those in the top echelon could make between $22,000 and $33,000 a year, inclusive of benefits—a substantial amount in the country.

Danang Widoyoko from the Indonesia Corruption Watch, a private watchdog, said low wages were only one of the factors encouraging corruption.

Top officials already make enough money to lead a "comfortable life" and the scale of corruption at high levels is "way too large to be explained by a mere wish to complement a low pay," he said.

Other countries

Elsewhere in Southeast Asia, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad is better off, earning more than $65,000 in annual pay while ministers earn around $43,000.

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, a self-made billionaire before he rose to power, receives an annual salary and allowance of $32,188, while ministers' pay hovers around $30,000.

Most Thai politicians are independently wealthy, however, and parliamentarians recently applied for a large pay increase—their first since 1992—claiming a 26-percent raise for MPs and senators.

In New Zealand an ordinary member of Parliament earns $40,890 per year, with a Cabinet minister earning up to $73,477. Prime Minister Helen Clark earns $110,300.

In Taiwan, the president's annual salary is $178,752, the prime minister earns $121,446, and ministers, $71,500.

In Cambodia, Cabinet ministers receive only a few hundred dollars for their services, while members of Parliament recently voted themselves a pay rise which amounts to about $2,000 a month each for an average member.

If a Cabinet minister is also a member of Parliament, then his salary is dramatically increased. But critics say this still does not explain the extravagant wealth that goes on display at public functions.

In Vietnam, the president's annual salary is around $1,650, while the prime minister receives $1,640, and Cabinet ministers, $1,350.

The government is currently working on a salary reform program which is expected to be finalized at the end of this year or early next year.

Oversized, underpaid

"The problem in most developing countries is the presence of governments with an oversized but underpaid civil service," said Srinivasa Madhur, principal economist with the Manila-based Asian Development Bank's Regional Economic Monitoring Unit.

"Paying huge salaries does not necessarily stop corruption but certainly would be an incentive for civil servants not to indulge in corruption," he said, adding that legal and institutional deterrents must also be in place.

Eiichi Kato, professor of social engineering at the Tsukuba University, said: "Public servants in Japan, especially senior bureaucrats, are apt to avoid corruption because if they are caught cheating they will be deprived of not only their jobs, which they can hold on for life, but also handsome severance pays.

"They don't either want to ruin their chances of landing lucrative jobs in the private sector. But recent embezzlement scandals at the foreign ministry show that money can paralyze one's senses," he said. *AFP*

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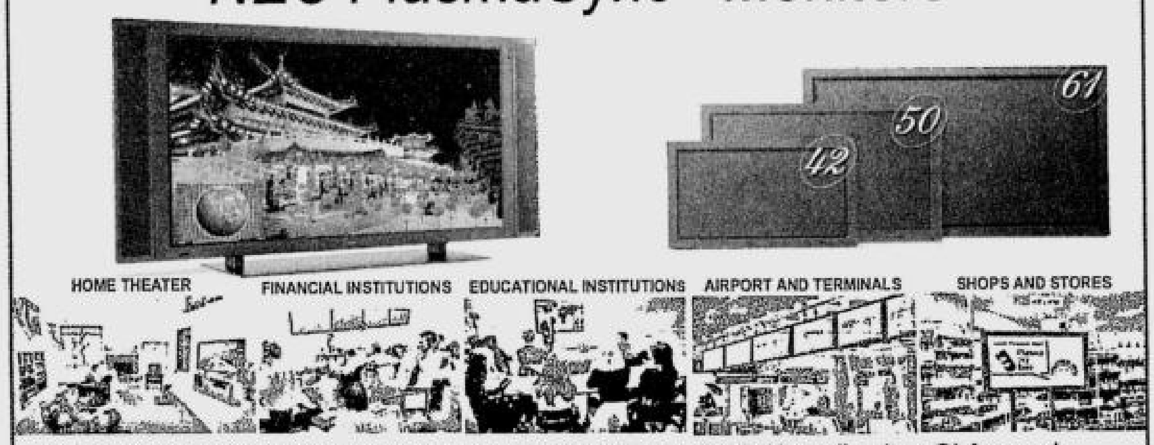

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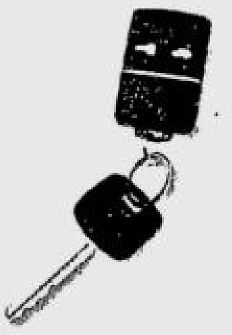

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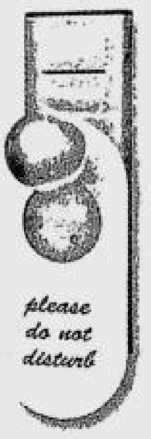

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Joe's call

EDITORIAL

IS THE country ready for another impeachment drama? A year and a half after President Joseph Estrada was impeached by a suddenly resolute House of Representatives, and six months after Congress junked a controversial impeachment complaint against Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, a new case will be heard by the House justice committee. .

This time, the object is the cantankerous Election Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco. A coalition of civil society groups, led by the National Movement for Free Elections, is seeking to impeach her for inefficiency and gross inexcusable negligence, betrayal of the public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution.

On the surface, it looks as if the complaint will prosper on the merits. The complainants are a diverse lot bound only by their commitment to electoral reform. (In contrast, the first complaint against Desierto was filed by a lawyer whose evidence, many lawyer-congressmen claimed then, broke the principle of lawyer-client confidentiality.) Also, some 65 congressmen endorsed the complaint against Tancangco when it was filed on Aug. 7. (This may be 12 short of the 77 required to immediately send the complaint to the Senate, but it is still an impressive number.) And last week Speaker Jose de Venecia endorsed the case to the rules committee, ensuring that the justice committee will act on it before the end of the month.

But impeachment—as we all learned from that enormous civics class that was the aborted Estrada trial in the Senate—is not merely a quasi-judicial proceeding; it is also eminently political. The critical lesson from Estrada's case is the crucial role the Speaker of the House plays in any impeachment. Congress can go through the motions—calling all hands on deck, raising anchor, and so on—but if the Speaker is not on board, the impeachment vessel will not set sail. It is as simple as that.

In the 11th Congress, it was Speaker Manuel Villar who famously steered the ship (on a lungful of breath and the chamber's longest prayer) past the shoals of opposition. In the 12th Congress, De Venecia has showed signs that he too knows how to navigate the tricky waters of impeachment. The only question is whether he actually wants to leave the harbor.

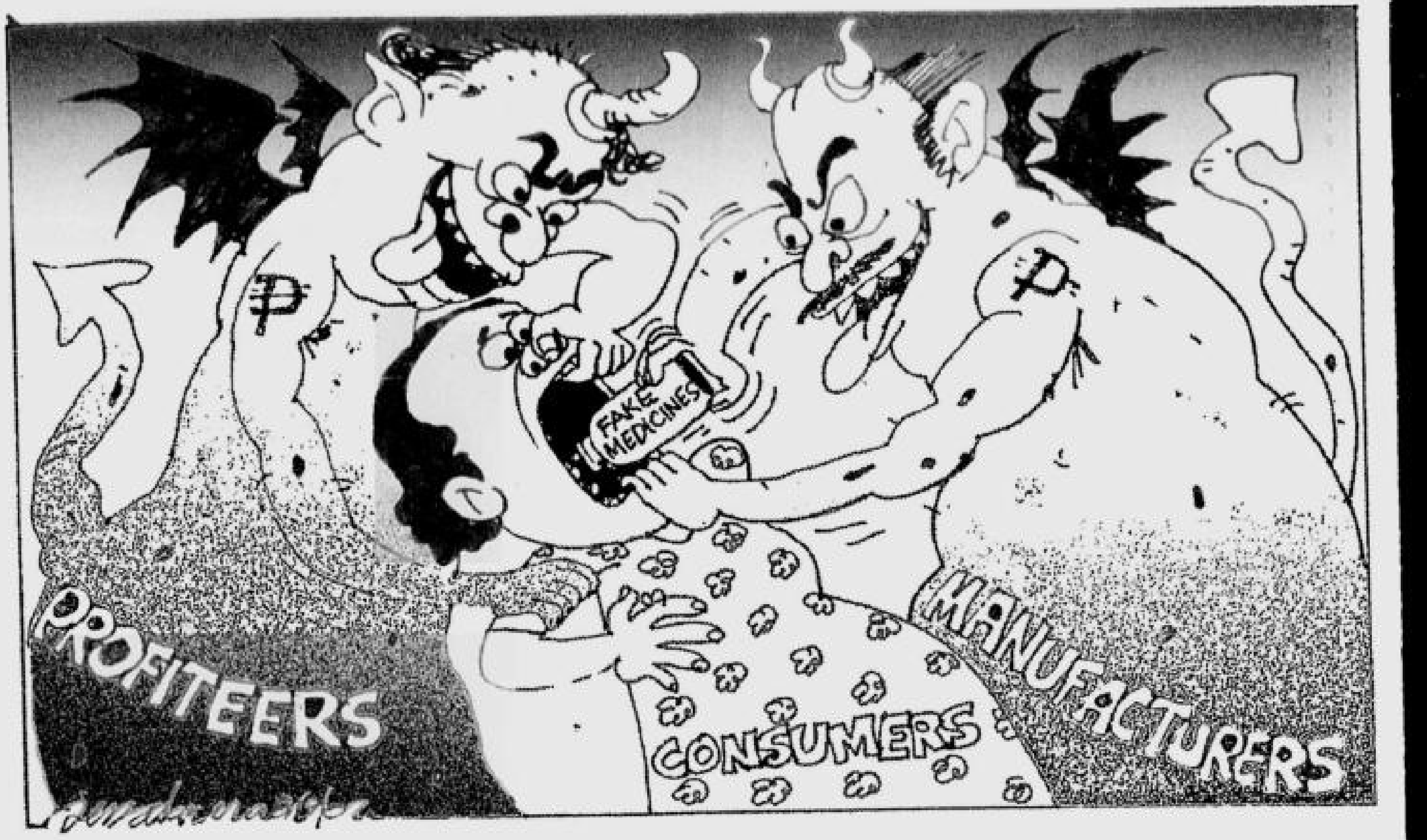
We have our doubts.

Earlier this year, when Congress was deliberating on two impeachment cases against Desierto, De Venecia walked a fine line. He directed congressmen to vote according to conscience: "Each vote rests solely on the individual member's appreciation of the evidence, guided only by the lamp of conscience." But on the day of the actual vote, he sent a strong and unmistakable signal about the priorities of realpolitik. "I took the initiative of calling the leaders of the Senate because at the end of the day if we sustained the impeachment complaint, it would go up to the Senate," he said then. "And invariably everybody told me: 'Please don't give that to us because we already have so many problems here'." An attentive Congress heard the signal, and voted overwhelmingly against the case.

If anything, the practical context in the complaint against Tancangco is even more complicated. The Macapagal administration has launched a so-called strong republic that puts a premium on tough-on-crime image engineering, even at the expense of common decency. The President's strident rhetoric against communist rebels has threatened to overwhelm her back-channel negotiators and leave the peace table permanently untended. The scandals behind the onerous independent power producer contracts continue to simmer, while preparations for the 2004 elections show no sign of cooling off. Not least, the Senate itself is still recovering from the failed opposition coup, which dramatically eroded public support for it. It is not, to put it mildly, an ideal time.

But this much is clear. The fate of the case against Tancangco will rest, not on the merits of the complaint, not on individual acts of conscience, but on De Venecia's reading of the political situation.

What will it be, Mr. Speaker?



Anding Roces is GMA's first choice for DepEd

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo invited eight selected journalists to dinner at Malacañang last Friday, together with Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye. Getting information straight from the horse's mouth is much better than getting it from second-hand sources. For example, the guessing game on the successor of resigned Education Secretary Raul Roco is all wrong. The first choice of the President for the Department of Education is none of those mentioned. Contrary to Malacañang buzz, Nilo Rosas, the former education undersecretary, is not the lead candidate at this time. Neither is it former Director Emmanuel Angeles. Presidential Adviser for Higher Education Mona Valisno and chair Esther Garcia of the Commission on Higher Education are not it either.

Her first choice to succeed Roco, the President said, is former Education Secretary Alejandro Roces—if he would accept the job. The trouble is that because of his advancing age, Roces may not want another stressful job. But if he accepts, he is as good as appointed.

On the Armed Forces chief of staff, the President said Gen. Roy Cimatu's appointment will not be extended. She prefers to have all the deserving generals get a chance to be AFP chief. Which means there will be a succession of AFP chiefs with short terms.

Will she replace Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez?

"I have already endorsed his appointment to the Commission on Appointments," she replied.

She said she fully supports Alvarez's decision to take over mining operations in Mt. Diwalwal. The area has become a Wild Wild West with outlaws sowing anarchy and killings becoming a regular occurrence. She is sending the Wyatt Earp of Mindanao, Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, to impose law and order in Mt. Diwalwal.

For 19 years, the gold rush town was allowed to deteriorate into the most lawless and polluted area in the country. Mercury poisoning from gold panning is a very real threat. We may be hit by the very painful, deforming and paralyzing *itai-itai* disease that hit Japan many years ago because of mercury poisoning of the seas. No other President dared or bothered to impose order. Now, for the first time, we are doing it, she said.

The President also said that she and the Cabinet have adopted the proposal of Rep. Enrique Garcia of Bataan to make the taxes and duties paid by taxpayers to accredited banks "demand deposits" of the Bureau of Treasury, and no longer "payables." This will prevent taxes and duties from being diverted to private accounts as have been done in the Binangonan branch of LandBank. The scam was not discovered until one and a half years later; by that time, the diverted P203 million in taxes/duties had already been withdrawn. It is estimated that P100 billion in taxes/duties is lost annually.

Under Garcia's proposal, taxes and duties paid will be immediately credited and recorded online to the accounts of the Bureau of Treasury in the head offices of the banks, not in the branches, to prevent syndicates from colluding with bank branch officials and employees. "Demand deposits" are immediately withdrawable whereas "payables" are recorded in the back rooms of the banks and paid to the account holders at the discretion of the bank. Internal revenue taxes are held by the banks for five days while customs duties are held for 10 days, during which time the banks, not the deposit owners, pocket the interest earnings. Question: Why is the holding period for BIR taxes only five days while that of customs duties is double that? Why the difference?

The President has no regrets about criticisms that she is converting Malacañang Palace into another city jail by parading suspected criminals in its halls as a publicity gimmick.

"It is to get the police to work faster and harder when they know I'm interested. Without the publicity, they tend to be lackadaisical," she said.

"NBI chief Reynaldo Wycoco was very fast in charging cashier Acsa Ramirez," I said, "but very slow in filing charges against the people involved in the Caloocan land scam. The NBI special team submitted its findings and recommendations years ago."

"Acsa's case is very simple," the President said.

"The Caloocan scam is also very simple," I said.

"All right, tell me," she said.

"The tract of land beside the Bonifacio Monument, worth at least P10 million, was transferred to the Gotesco corporation without it paying a single centavo. And even before it was transferred, Gotesco was able to mortgage it to the Philippine National Bank for P300 million, which it has not paid."

"I'll call Wycoco in," she said. In a few minutes, Wycoco was on the phone. "Neal Cruz is here with me..." she said and she narrated the Caloocan land scam and asked why no charges have been filed.

Later, the President said that Wycoco had told her that a case has been filed with the Ombudsman but that it is not moving because another case has been filed with the Supreme Court and everybody is waiting for it to be resolved. But that he would look into it anyway.

Is this correct? Strange. When I invited Wycoco to the Kapihan sa Manila on the Caloocan land scam, he sent another NBI official and that official said the NBI is still studying the NBI team's report and that the Department of Justice has not yet filed any case. Maybe we should hear from Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Acting Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio if there are really cases filed on the Caloocan land scam.

Meanwhile, the Senate blue ribbon committee has been investigating the same scam and witnesses are raring to testify. But committee chair Joker Arroyo has frozen the investigation. Why?

Blow jobs

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo suggests Raul Roco blew it. He jumped the gun on his investigation, and so never really got to clear himself. When all he needed to do was ignore the charges, or wait out Dario Rama's sleuthing, till the truth emerged.

Maybe. But I wonder how GMA herself would have taken it had the tables been turned. What if Roco had been the President and GMA had been, say, the trade and industry secretary, and Roco asked her to be investigated for some nuisance complaints by her subordinates? What if Roco had endorsed the charge sheet on the very day a survey came out saying GMA, despite not doing any campaigning, indeed despite not being in the public eye, was the voters' No. 1 choice? What if Roco had done that while GMA had just turned the Department of Trade and Industry from one of the most corrupt and incompetent departments to the cleanest and most well-oiled department in record time?

What would GMA have done?

I remember again what she did do when the INQUIRER ran a story about her during the 1998 elections that she didn't like. Roco merely resigned his post. He did not storm through the gates of Malacañang and did not hurl the offending charge sheet at the face of his President. Who knows? Maybe he remembered he was an honorary woman, and saw that these things were done only by macho men.

Maybe GMA's endorsement of the charges against Roco to Rama was routine, or "ministerial." But it's hard to understand why given no lack of public officials who are openly being charged with malfeasance, Roco should be the one to be routinely recommended for investigation. Heherson Alvarez has been in the thick of controversy these last few months over Picop, but he has not been officially charged. Rene Bañez has failed to collect taxes adequately, not to speak of impressively, as GMA promised in her Sona speech, but he is not being recommended for investigation. Indeed, GMA went out to show she was standing by him. Anyone of GMA's PNP generals can be indicted—and probably convicted—for *kotong*. Her own husband, who acts like a government official even when he is not, can be a subject of investigation, congressional or not. But they are not.

Roco is.

What happened to Roco in fact was an Acsa Ramirez, Part 2. You do good, you expect to be congratulated, not humiliated like a common criminal. Ramirez blew the whistle on her superiors, an act of courage under great adversity. It is not easy defying people who have the power and resources to harm you, or your family. She ended up being displayed before the world as a suspect. Roco had been doing his job quietly and effectively, under great adversity. A couple of syndicates involved in book rackets had even threatened his life. Bañez would complain that the Bureau of Internal Revenue he inherited made it next to impossible to collect taxes, but easily Roco had inherited a more humongous cesspool in the Department of Education. He turned it around. But he ended up being displayed before the world as a suspect.

In lieu of being praised for a job well done, they got damned. It's enough to piss off anyone.

Unfortunately for Ramirez, unlike Roco she cannot resign from anything. Or fight back. Worse, she has now been officially charged as a suspect, as monumental a stupidity as anyone can make. It is more than a blunder, it is a stupidity. It sends all the wrong signals to the public. An innocent woman—no, a heroic one—will be burnt at the stake just so the President, and her chief investigator, can save face. That is iniquity, pure and simple, and I myself will not let it go because we must "move on." This is a case where an honest person's head weighs more than a stubborn President's face.

I will not be surprised if Rama announces in the next few days, like Reynaldo Wycoco did last week, that he has found reason to prosecute Roco for graft. It's the same logic. *Napasubo na, panindigan na.* The President's face is at stake.

I did say before that it's not that GMA cannot do good, it's just that no good may stand in the way of her running for President. That is what is ruining her, and the country. Both Ramirez and Roco are clearly sacrificial lambs at the altar of her ambitions, ambitions that have made her exceedingly reckless of late. Ramirez is a victim of her anti-crime campaign, which she went into because of its electioneering potential, even turning Malacañang into Precinto Uno until her Vice President reminded her she was the President and not the police chief. Roco is, well, the timing of her complaint, which is the same day the Ibon survey came out, and the selective perception, which is her choice of him to throw to the wolves when the bureaucracy does not lack for real crooks, shows he is a victim of the President's ambitions too.

There was yet one other thing she did, which is the product of presidential ambition. That was to allow Pagcor to flood this country with slot machines. She backtracked from it of course after everyone pointed out the irony of Erap's successor turning this country from one ruled by two-armed bandits to one ruled by one-armed ones. She would say grandly in a press conference where she announced her decision to abandon the project that though it was perfectly legal, it was highly immoral. Thank you very much, but wasn't that obvious from the start? Quite incidentally, I heard nothing from Jaime Cardinal Sin, or Socrates Villegas, on the subject. Not a peep, not a squeak, not a sigh. But it was obvious to everyone that the whole idea was to raise a war chest for 2004. That is the price we have to pay for someone's ambitions.

Those things happened within the space of just a week or so, the Ramirez fiasco, the slot machines fiasco, the Roco fiasco. Man, that is really blowing it.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

GMA's political will

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE GOVERNMENT'S revenue shortfall as of June 30 was P9.6 billion, and the seriousness of the problem shows in the fact that it has exceeded its net borrowing requirements by 65 percent, to P190 billion this year from the original plan of only P115 billion. Thus, all the revenue-collecting agencies are under tremendous pressure to step up their collection.

A House member recently told me that the Bureau of Customs has devised a sure way to raise revenues—it now allows importation by the container-load, no questions asked and no opening of the containers, in return for paying a flat rate of P300,000 per container. If the importer chooses to question the rate, he risks inspection and commensurate tax assessment. This new scheme has jacked up customs collections, but the problem that I can see is that unscrupulous elements could take advantage by stepping up the smuggling of undesirable items into the country.

* * *

President Macapagal-Arroyo has shown political will in two laudable decisions. One is stopping Pagcor's plan to operate slot machines all over the country. It's not clear whether the move was approved by GMA, but the fact is that when it was opposed by many sectors, she showed sensitivity to public opinion by stopping it. This has won plaudits from leaders like Bishop Ramon Villena of the Diocese of Bayombong, a staunch opponent of gambling.

* * *

Her other move was her order, issued through Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, to stop all mining operations in Diwalwal, Compostela Valley, and for the government to directly take over the 729-hectare gold rush area. The takeover, which is being enforced by a combined AFP-PNP force, came in the wake of recent killings, tunnel suffocations, blocking of critical infrastructure and other violent episodes that have made Diwalwal a powder keg over the years. But apart from the violence, it has long been a stumbling block to social justice—the small miners have been exploited by the big mining companies or deprived of their right to use the state resources, the abundant gold there, for their livelihood.

* * *

What GMA has approved for Diwalwal last Aug. 16 is a wholistic socio-political-environmental solution that strives to address the inequity in wealth-making, by seeking to change the sharing from 60-40 in favor of the big companies, to the reverse in favor of the workers. To begin with, though the big mining operations are temporarily suspended pending a rationalization plan, the small miners who are not using explosives are allowed to continue manual operations. As Alvarez explained it, this move is "part of a measured moderate effort not only to extract wealth, but also promote social justice; after all, so much gold has been extracted at the cost of so much pain, danger and death for the workers." In addition, a cleanup of the pollution and the buildup of environment-sustainable standards are being undertaken.

After 19 years and so many presidents, beginning with Ferdinand Marcos, it's President Macapagal who seems to have found the total approach to Diwalwal's long-festering socio-political-environmental problems. Cong Dadong would have been proud of his daughter's populist approach. As for Alvarez, the earlier he can squeeze past the Commission on Appointments, the earlier he can concentrate on reducing tension in Diwalwal and devising a long-term solution.

* * *

Last Saturday this column reprinted the first part of the moving commencement address by Pulitzer-Prize novelist Anna Quindlen before the graduating class of Villanova University in Pennsylvania, titled "Look at the View!" Below is the concluding portion.

"And I tried to do that, in part, by telling others what I had learned. By telling them this: Consider the lilies of the field. Look at the fuzz on a baby's ear. Read in the backyard with the sun on your face. Learn to be happy. And think of life as a terminal illness because if you do you will live it with joy and passion, as it ought to be lived.

"Well, you can learn all those things. Out there, if you get a life, a full life, a professional life. Yes. But another life, too, a life of love and laughs and a connection to other human beings. Just keep your eyes and ears open. Here you can learn in the classroom. There, the classroom is everywhere. The exam comes at the very end.

"No man ever said on his deathbed I wish I had spent more time at the office.

"I found one of my best teachers on the boardwalk at Coney Island maybe 15 years ago. It was December and I was doing a story about how the homeless survive in the winter months. He and I sat on the edge of the wooden supports, dangling our feet over the side, and he told me about his schedule: panhandling the boulevard when the summer crowds were gone, sleeping in a church when the temperature went below freezing, hiding from the police amidst the Tilt a Whirl and the Cyclone and some of the other seasonal rides. But he told me that most of the time he stayed on the boardwalk, facing the water, just the way we were sitting now even when it got cold and he had to wear his newspapers after he read them.

"And I asked him why. Why didn't he go to one of the shelters? Why didn't he check himself into the hospital for detox? And he just stared out at the ocean and said, 'Look at the view, young lady. Look at the view.' And every day, in some little way, I try to do what he said. I try to look at the view."

Shattered peace?

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

"I RELOCATED to Davao City because I feel safe here. Mayor Duterte is here." So declared my *kababayan* from Gen. Santos City, boxing sensation and present International Boxing Federation junior featherweight champion Manny Pacquiao, now the latest poster boy to endorse the city as a "safe and peaceful haven" in Mindanao for tourism and investments.

Not only is the boxing hero relocating to Davao. He also chose the City of Durian as the stage for his second world crown defense against a Thai challenger in September. The fight, arranged by boxing aficionado Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol, will be held in an open air area and will be free to the public "so that Davaoeños and the people of Mindanao will be able to experience and see a world-class fight."

For Pacquiao, there is no better place to defend his crown than in Davao. Finding a new friend in Duterte, dubbed by Time magazine as "The Punisher" for his no-nonsense style of addressing crime, is one reason. Certainly, Duterte's reknown, especially after he was appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo as her crime consultant, is a plus factor, particularly in attracting sponsors.

Yet, Pacquiao's title defense may just be the needed shot in the arm for Davao City, if not for Southern Mindanao. Davao City has already been adjudged the "Most Livable City" and, recently, also dubbed as the "Most Competitive City" by the Asian Institute of Management. But for last year's failed Abu Sayyaf raid on one resort in the neighboring Island Garden City of Samal, the city and its environs have been generally spared the violent incidents that rocked some parts of Mindanao. Despite this "conducive climate," though, the expected hustle and bustle of economic activities has yet to be seen. It seems that some negative perceptions still linger. Recent events—senseless and violent deaths in the city within a week—threaten to shatter the image of Davao City as peaceful.

In the early morning of July 28, 28-year-old Carlo Asistido was shot dead inside the compound of The Venue, a popular watering hole among young professionals. Asistido was reportedly pacifying a fight between scions of two powerful political clans from Central Mindanao when he was shot. The suspect, Mohammad Bahnarin Ampatuan, is now facing murder charges in court.

Even as Duterte banned, after the incident, the carrying of long firearms inside the city by bodyguards of politicians and other government officials, he was not spared from the political fallout. Known for taking "swift" action on suspected criminals, critics charged him with being "soft" on the suspect, who comes from an influential family. And while this issue was still unresolved, another senseless death took place in the young campus of the University of the Philippines in Mindanao (UPMin).

Dr. Guillermo "Jun" Largo, a faculty member of UPMin's College of Science and Mathematics, was brutally beaten up near his house by unidentified assailants using a nail-spiked *dos por dos* on the night of Aug. 2.

In the hospital, he slipped into a coma and died on Aug. 7. Although UP has seen many of its best and brightest lose their lives for beliefs and principles, the irony of Dr. Largo's death was not lost on the UPMin community: he died violently in a supposedly "peaceful" city.

Carmencita Montaire Alteza, a health care company employee, may have read about the fate of Asistido and Largo. Little did she know that on Aug. 5, she too would meet a similarly senseless fate. In a daring broad daylight ambush, two motorcycle-riding gunmen peppered with bullets the taxicab she was riding that day at the posh Doña Vicenta Village. As in Largo's case, the police faces a blank wall.

These violent deaths may be dismissed as isolated, but certainly, it challenges Duterte whose brand of peace and order campaign is clearly on the line.

* * *

The Aug. 12 front-page INQUIRER picture that showed how a military Simba armored personnel carrier rammed the barricading small-scale miners in Compostela Valley may yet be a portent of things to come in this so-called "strong republic" of GMA. The Simba did not only hit the barricading miners but it also run over the coffin of a miner who had died of suffocation in the mining sites of Mt. Diwata (also known as Mt. Diwalwal). The military claimed the miners had no permit, their barricade was illegal and the coffin display was a "drama." The violent dispersal did not even take into consideration that local officials, including Mayor Duterte and Gov. Jose Caballero, were then still in the thick of negotiations. In the end, the government's taking over of the gold-rich area—an aftermath of the miners protest—is a welcome move. This will finally put in place mechanisms that will eventually benefit, not only the government through taxes collected, but especially the genuine small-scale miners.

* * *

WOMEN TALK: There are hundreds, if not a thousand, convicted women offenders coming from Mindanao. Yet, there is no correctional facility for women anywhere on the island. Women convicted to serve more than three years of imprisonment are brought to the Women's Correctional Center in Mandaluyong. This is one issue that the Davao Lady Lawyers Association (DALLAS) will take up with Sen. Loren Legarda on Aug. 23, during its annual assembly and induction rites. DALLAS hopes Senator Legarda can facilitate the putting up of such a facility, particularly in Davao.

* * *

Comments at karlos_z23@hotmail.com or kar_laws@yahoo.com

Please, no more politicians at DepEd

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

NOW that Raul Roco has suddenly resigned, the President should get a real education secretary, one devoted to public education and not political ambition. Having a politician at the Department of Education has been folly of the highest order.

But there are follies of an even higher order. For example, the President should not choose someone like Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta (damaged goods). She would justly earn the opprobrium of the education community for that. I know she would lose the support of Sr. Lulu Dulay, who labors in the mountains and far valleys of this benighted country, as a teacher of young people. Sister took the time from her distant post in a provincial school, to alert me, that she is doubly-concerned about that fearful possibility. Dozens like her are raising the textual alarums.

But to see what kind of replacement is needed at the DepEd, we must first understand the failure of Roco as education secretary, and the mess he has left there. Ah, but aren't we talking about Roco, Honorary Woman of the Senate, he of the angrily fluttering eyelid, a patron saint of Edsa II, a champion in the just fight to unseat Erap (Idi Amin)? Isn't he the brilliant legal mind that matched wits with the likes of Juan Ponce Enrile (Rasputin) and Miriam Defensor-Santiago (summa cum laude, University of Bedlam) at Erap's historic trial?

Yes, but we are also talking of Roco, the recently resigned education secretary and his short record in that position, on which I mainly base this commentary.

First, let me make it crystal clear that I do not for a minute believe Roco is guilty of any graft and corruption, any more than his predecessor, Bro. Andrew Gonzalez was. (If he was, then it will be for the judges of Hilario Davide, the incorruptible ones, to decide.)

But, of his deeds with long-lasting implications for the education sector, the awful truth is, Roco has compromised the future of this country. For he came to the DepEd at a crucial moment, when a decade-long process of curriculum renewal was about to come to fruition. Perhaps not knowing what had come before, and not bothering to find out, he made monumentally flawed decisions whose reversal should be the first order of business in a new secretary's agenda.

The 2002 Basic Education Curriculum (BEC), whose nationwide implementation Roco mysteriously rushed, and has now suddenly abandoned over a "a point of honor," is really a point for cynically brilliant politics. To which he is entitled, as a politician of great note and promise, but over which the teachers and the youth have been cheated, their future disadvantaged and the entire public education system left in shambles, deposited by Roco in a rut of doubt.

For in relinquishing his post, after laying that giant egg called the 2002 BEC, he has abandoned the responsibility to incubate it, to stand by it with the strength of conviction and to nurse it to life until popular consensus, so averse to change, should accept it.

But neither conviction in the BEC did he apparently have, nor the consensus of his major stakeholders, the teachers, the parents and the youth. He had only orchestrated expressions of support from sheep that fed at his hand, who acquiesced in a deception, only to protect their own lambs from any stinginess at the central office.

When seen as part of a political timetable for the 2004 presidential elections, the illogicalities of the BEC implementation are more comprehensible. His new curriculum is a reality, Roco will claim in the campaign, yet remember these two points when he does.

First, the 400,000-plus public school teachers have not received adequate training, or even familiarization with the basic elements of the new curriculum. How could they? It was in draft stage up till last February. Those pitiful presentations in over-heated, over-crowded auditoriums, full of exhortatory eck-eck, but mercifully hard to hear, were wholly lacking in real help for the rank and file teacher. They do not qualify as training. They were merely window-dressing.

Second, at this moment, the textbooks, lesson plans, lab manuals and other support materials, specified by that very curriculum, are not in existence. The reason is you cannot produce educational materials the way you can print up campaign posters.

But Roco's DepEd continues to buy textbooks obsoleted by BEC? Why?

Roco never took education as a problem worthy of his ample intellectual talents. It was just another step on the way to somewhere else. He never really focused on the problems that his predecessors were working on—the real problems of educating Filipinos for a world that mercilessly punishes ignorance in the subjects that really matter. In particular, he imposed his own politically motivated structure ("Makabayan") on top of what would have been a highly efficient new curriculum.

The Roco curriculum is just the old curriculum, but horribly mangled and hurriedly rearranged to make it look new. I know, for I have spent months looking at the actual documents, past and present. The worst thing of it, is that Roco's curriculum savages the science subjects, by taking a billion hours or more of time away from teaching and studying things like earth science, biology, chemistry and physics in high school. He salvaged Grades 1 and 2, relegating science to a province of English vocabulary, and no longer a separate subject. In this day and age! Excuse me your honor, but what century do you think this is?

No matter what his moral credentials are, Roco was terrible at education, proof that good intentions are not enough, as ambition is a venom that works on the heart, to get at the head. Please, no more politicians at the DepEd.

* * *

Comments to deanbocobo@yahoo.com

Suppression of news

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

DAMNED if you, damned if you don't.

That's the situation the INQUIRER often finds itself in deciding what news to publish and what to consign to the "file and forget" folder. Stories that put their subjects in a bad light never fail to elicit howls of protest. If certain events do not find print, the affected parties complain about newspaper bias.

A lawyer from Parañaque City, whose identity I will keep under wraps for ethical reasons, criticized the INQUIRER for not giving publicity to a complaint allegedly filed by somebody against two Court of Appeals justices.

There was nothing in his letter that would show that he is the lawyer of the complaining party. But from the way it's worded, I got the impression that he is interested in the outcome of the case involved in the complaint against the two magistrates.

The unedited letter reads: "I was very much surprised why your newspaper have not released any report, regarding the news about two (2) Court of Appeals, Justices. Justice Abesamis and Justice Enriquez. The news was reported by Korina Sanchez on 'TV Patrol' dated Aug. 2, 2002.

"We are suspecting that perhaps your management does not file to report cases of such nature, considering the presence of Sec. Collin Powell. We waited up to now even after the departure of Sec. Powell, but up to now no news regarding this matter has been reported.

"Ms. Litua who gave the amount of P500,000.00. Justice Enriquez who was the ponente of his case, but Justice Enriquez was again collecting the balance of P1 million from M. Litua but M. Litua refused to give the ponente (Justice Enriquez) if he will not be furnished a copy of Justice Enriquez decision.

"Please inform the undersigned if it is now the policy of the INQUIRER to suppress news of this nature."

News search

The instant letter is typical of the complaints the INQUIRER routinely receives from "concerned citizens" and "anonymous readers" who send alleged proof of wrongdoing by certain persons that they ask to be given publicity, but are ignored by the editors.

For the reasons I will discuss below, I reached the conclusion, after conferring with the editor in chief, that the reader's complaint of news suppression has no merit.

The fact that news reader Korina Sanchez (or any radio or TV news reader, for that matter) included the bribery complaint in her broadcast does not mean the INQUIRER is obliged to take her report at its face value and publish it without delay.

The INQUIRER has its own corps of reporters and correspondents that prepares news reports and sends them to the editorial desk for review and evaluation. Guided by the criteria of significance, relevance and timeliness, the editors decide which stories to include in tomorrow's edition, which to save for the succeeding days and which to throw into the wastebasket.

This is not to say that the newspaper does not consider radio and TV stations as valuable sources of news. The news and public affairs programs of these media outlets are closely monitored by the reporters and editors for possible newsworthy stories. In fact, there are two TV sets in the editorial room that are turned on for most of the day and night to make sure no late-breaking developments in news stories escape the attention of the desk. A similar monitoring is done for radio stations that have reliable and extensive news gathering facilities.

At best, the radio and TV news reports can provide leads that the reporters can use to independently gather the facts for their news stories. This action is taken only if the broadcaster enjoys a reputation for credibility; otherwise the reports are simply ignored.

More important news

The editor in chief's explanation that the alleged bribery complaint must have been "overwhelmed" by the other news reports that were submitted for the editors' evaluation in the evening of Aug. 1 and on later days is supported by the subsequent INQUIRER issues.

A review of the news reports during that period shows that the events that competed for the pages of the newspaper were the survey finding of Ibon Foundation that Education Secretary Raul Roco would get more votes than President Macapagal-Arroyo if the elections were held today, the proposed RP-US Mutual Logistic Support Agreement, the scheduled visit of US Secretary of State Collin Powell and the reported trust deficiency of the College Assurance Plan (CAP).

In the light of these important events, it is doubtful if the bribery complaint filed against the justices would have found a slot in the newspaper's story list. The editors cannot be faulted for reserving the limited pages of the INQUIRER to news reports that have a greater impact on the lives of the Filipino people.

The question is posed: Assuming the editors saw the TV newscast, couldn't it have assigned a reporter to gather more information about the report for possible inclusion in its pages?

Yes, it could have, according to the editor in chief. But the problem is that week the reporters had their hands full covering, among others, the President's anti-crime drive, her meeting with Powell, Jose Ma. Sison's call on the NPA to meet with force the government's plan to renew its anti-insurgency campaign and the death of two Filipino caregivers in a suicide bombing in Israel.

It's true the bribery complaint did not get the publicity the reader wanted. That, in my opinion, however, should not be construed as indicative of the newspaper's suppression of news of that nature.

The reader may have missed it, but the bribery complaint was taken up in the columns of Winnie Monsod and Ramon Tulfo. If the INQUIRER wanted to impose a news blackout on the complaint, it could have "censored" any reference to it in the articles of the two columnists.

I think the non-publication of the bribery case should not discourage the reader or complainant herself from pursuing the complaint to its logical conclusion either with the Supreme Court or Ombudsman. The inability of the INQUIRER's patrons to read about it in detail neither adds nor detracts from its merit. It should stand on its own.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Opportunities lost in RP's not ratifying ICC

ON APRIL 11, 2002, 10 countries simultaneously ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) providing for the number of ratifications needed for the statute to enter into force. The statute has now 68 ratifications, eight more than the 60 required. The statute was adopted at the Diplomatic Conference in Rome in 1998 by a vote of 120 to 7 with 21 abstentions. The statute established a permanent ICC that has jurisdiction over persons or individuals for the most serious crimes of international concern.

But still, some governments or states have not ratified the statute. The United States, for reasons ventilated before the UN Security Council, opposed the functioning and operation of the court. Before the Security Council, the US representatives even sought immunity from prosecution by the ICC and threatened to withdraw the deployment of troops for peace-keeping. The Philippine government has yet to make its stand to ratify or not the ICC, yet Philippine representatives during the month-long Rome conference, joined the majority of states voting for approval of the statute.

In the absence of ratification, the Philippines will not be a state party to the statute as it is now in force. Nothing, however, will prevent late ratification as provided for in Article 126 of the statute. Even so, there are provisions in the statute that the ICC may still exercise jurisdiction over a non-ratifying state such as when the crime cognizable by the ICC occurs in the territory of the non-ratifying state or on board a vessel or aircraft under its registry or when the person accused of the crime is its national, provided, however, that the state by declaration lodged with the ICC's registry, accepts the court's jurisdiction.

Pending its ratification of the statute, the Philippines, although it has approved the statute in Rome, will be reduced to the status of a mere observer in the Assembly of State Parties created under Article 112 of the statute. This assembly is an important body and has vast powers, among which are to decide on the budget of the court, provide management oversight in the administration of the court, decide on the qualification, nomination and election of judges and the number of judges as provided for in Article 36. It shall also have a bureau consisting of a president, two vice presidents and 18 members elected by the assembly and may establish subsidiary bodies. Each ratifying state will have one representative in the assembly.

Thus, this situation where the decision to ratify is in limbo at this crucial period of the organization of the court, will deprive the government from participating in the activities of the assembly and more importantly, from even nominating worthy candidates for judges, prosecutors or any high post in the newly constituted court.

—RAUL I. GOCO, former ambassador, solicitor general and UN Law Commission member,
5 10th St., New Manila, QC

Grateful for CAP's help

IN THE FACE of all the negative publicity about the College Assurance Plan (CAP), I would like to express the fact that I cannot imagine what would have happened if my parents did not purchase a CAP educational plan for me.

Words cannot express my gratitude to CAP because of the tremendous benefits I have gained in my college days. My classmates have envied my having a CAP plan, especially during enrollment time because they know that I don't have to fall in line to pay my tuition. I have finished college because I had CAP to help me graduate from a prestigious school here in the Philippines.

Even now that I have a career in life, CAP is still there to help and update me with its programs and activities that gather all CAP scholars. I am so surprised because I'm not the only one who feels gratitude and appreciation for this company that has helped young Filipinos like me achieve their dreams of finishing their studies so that they can help make the future become brighter and more successful.

Thanks to CAP! I won't have second thoughts about getting a CAP educational plan for my future children because I know CAP won't fail in helping people achieve their dreams.

—MARIA LIZA Z. CALVARIO,
De La Salle University,
Dasmariñas, Cavite

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Alarming statistics on abortion

THE UP Population Institute report that more than 320,000 abortions are done in the country annually is very alarming. How can a predominantly Christian country commit so many vicious crimes against the unborn?

Part of the reason lies at the very heart of the Catholic teaching against the use of contraception. I wholeheartedly agree with the Church's stand that life begins with conception. It is a gift from God and should not be tampered with except for medical reasons or in case of rape. However, many of these abortions would not have occurred without the constant interference of the Catholic Church against contraception.

The use of contraception per se is not against the law of God as the Church would want to make it appear. The biblical basis against contraception was the sin of Onan (Genesis 38:8-10). He committed coitus interruptus, which the Church looks down upon. This sin is a crime worse than incest in the eyes of the Church.

But Onan's real sin was disobedience to the law of God for refusing to have children who will bear his dead brother's name. This was the basis of the Church's old law declaring all forms of contraception, including the rhythm method, sinful. But in 1930, Pope Pius XI came out with an encyclical sanctioning the use of the rhythm method and abstinence as the only acceptable form of family planning.

Contraception does not violate the law of God against the killing of innocent lives. Most contraceptives never allow conception to occur in the first place. Even the pill is used not to stop conception, but to delay ovulation. Other mechanical methods, including the condom, do not allow conception to take place. This is also what the rhythm method and abstinence seek to achieve.

The Church can mitigate the killing of unborn babies by revising her doctrine and helping alleviate poverty in the country. Most unwanted babies come from the ranks of the poor and their problems continue the vicious cycle of poverty. Our government is bankrupt and can't help the poor while the Church with her enormous wealth is not helping enough to uplift the lives of the poor. The poor need to help themselves by limiting the size of their families so as to be able to better afford the basic needs of the children. The children need more than just a hand-to-mouth existence if they are going to make it in this competitive world. They need nutritious food and good education to alleviate their poverty.

—ARMANDO ANG,
12-A Tamar St., Santol,
Quezon City

Remembering Tio Boning

WASHINGTON, D.C. must be the used book capital of the world and Filipino freedom fighter Bonifacio Gillego couldn't have been any happier. He thought nothing of risking life and limb to cross a busy street just to browse in yet another used book store.

I could just imagine his doting wife Dolores rolling her eyes yet once more as Tio Boning fumbled through their front door lugging two grocery bags full of books plus a couple more in the pockets of his flannel jacket. He must have started reading them on the bus en route to his house in Virginia.

I sometimes accompanied Tio Boning in these book-browsing adventures and soon got hooked on this American pastime.

For nine years, Tio Boning lived the life of an expatriate in America—but at least he was a free man.

In the fall of 1982, a few days before the Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos was due to arrive in the United States for a state visit, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation made covert surveillances of Tio Boning's neighborhood. They finally came up the front door and warned him and the Movement for a Free Philippines not to make any trouble during the Marcos visit. They made it clear that Tio Boning and his group would have to account for any untoward incident during the Marcos visit.

President Ronald Reagan must have considered the MFP, of which Tio Boning was director of intelligence, as a terrorist group out to disrupt the visit of staunch US ally Marcos.

Tio Boning stiffened and told off the federal agents: "We are not the terrorists. Ferdinand Marcos is."

Marcos and his wife Imelda thereafter arrived in Washington and Tio Boning and MFP president Raul Manglapus led the demonstrations against them.

Looking at the banners and placards denouncing the Marcoses and the death of democracy in the home country, most of which I painted two nights earlier, gave me a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction. We knew we were the good guys. We knew we were fighting the good fight.

Tio Boning's presence was an added bonus and it buoyed my spirits even more. Tio Boning, the man who exposed Marcos' fake war medals and his spy network in America, was more than a hero to his kith and kin. We called him "Double Hero."

Bonifacio Gillego—freedom fighter, reformist, scholar, bonsai gardener—died on July 30, 2002, at the age of 81 in the bosom of his beloved country—happy and free.

—PROSPERO GILLEGO GOTLADERA,
Bulan, Sorsogon

Parañaque needs a full-time mayor

IN THE TWISTS and turns that has accompanied the much publicized romance of Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez, the real losers are the people of the city who still have to endure him for two more years. Everyone knows more about what goes on in his private life than what he has been doing (or not doing) as the city's chief public servant.

Along the main road of Doña Soledad in Better Living Subdivision alone, garbage continues to pile up and remain uncollected for several days. The street is in a sad state of disrepair, causing enormous traffic jams. This is symptomatic of local governance in Parañaque where there is more hype and public relations than effective and sustained service delivery from city hall.

And where is the mayor to be found in this mess? If he is not playing golf in Cebu or shooting a second-rate comedy abroad, he is either horsing around on prime time television or confined in a hospital with some kind of heart ailment. And yes, he may also be regaling his audience with street smart advice on Channel 7's "Debate with Mare and Pare."

I am an ordinary citizen with no political agenda. Like everyone else, I expect public officials to serve full time, remain dedicated and strive foremost to be respectable. I still believe Marquez is a nice person but if he cannot even manage his family relations, let alone his love life, why don't he just resign? Parañaque prays for good governance: not another joke from Marquez, and certainly, not another soap opera.

—SONNY C. CUENCO, 14 Sarmiento St., Better Living, Parañaque City

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Taiwan claims diplomatic victory

TAIPEI—A day after returning from a controversial visit to Indonesia, Taiwan's vice president said Sunday that Taipei won a "battle without gunfire" against China by convincing Jakarta to allow her four-day trip to go ahead despite opposition from Beijing.

Annette Lu told reporters that during her visit, a Chinese leader telephoned Jakarta and threatened to cut diplomatic ties if she was allowed to meet high-level Indonesian officials.

Chinese officials last week said they made "stern representations" to the Indonesian government, expressing their opposition to the visit.

But Lu's claim that Beijing threatened to cut diplomatic ties could not be immediately confirmed with either Jakarta or Beijing.

On Sunday, China's official Xinhua News Agency quoted foreign ministry spokesperson Kong Quan calling Lu's trip as "an absolute farce."

"She runs into a brick wall wherever she goes," Xinhua quoted Kong as saying. "Facts show that Lu is persona non grata and there is no way Taiwan independence can succeed."

In Jakarta, Lu met Indonesia's labor and environmental ministers. But both Lu and Indonesian officials deny that she met President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Beijing works hard to isolate Taiwan diplomatically, since it considers the self-ruled island a part of China. The two sides split amid civil war in 1949.

Lu was the highest-level Taiwanese official to visit a Southeast Asian country under the two-year administration of President Chen Shui-bian. *AP*

LU: Battle without gunfire AP

Falun Gong followers appeal Hong Kong obstruction charges

HONG KONG—Sixteen Falun Gong followers found guilty of public obstruction for protesting against China have filed an appeal against their convictions, a local spokesperson for the meditation group said Sunday.

Falun Gong spokesperson Kan Hung-cheung said they lodged an appeal with the courts on Saturday against a magistrate's ruling Thursday. Kan called the ruling groundless, and said: "The court only based its judgment on evidence from the prosecution."

Magistrate Symon Wong convicted the practitioners of causing an obstruction outside the Chinese government liaison office here during a March 14 protest and fined them between US$167-487.

He did not jail anyone, although some of the defendants were found guilty of more serious offenses including obstructing and assaulting the police.

A dozen pro-democracy demonstrators braved torrential rain and marched to a side gate of government headquarters to protest the Falun Gong convictions on Sunday.

"Shame on the government for clamping down on Falun Gong, shame on the government for suppressing dissent," the protesters chanted as they were stopped by police outside the gate.

They accused the government of suppressing demonstrations through "dirty tactics" such as prosecuting protesters with laws intended to stop illegal street peddlers from blocking Hong Kong's sidewalks.

"They use such minor offenses to cover up their political prosecution," said veteran activist "Longhair" Leung Kwok-hung. "It's a clear attempt to clamp down on freedom of expression." The protesters dispersed peacefully after the march.

Falun Gong members say the convictions are a sign that China is exporting mainland-style suppression to this former British colony. Although Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule five years ago, it retains many Western-style liberties such as freedom of speech.

Local followers of Falun Gong, which is outlawed on the mainland as an "evil cult," often protest against Beijing's suppression of the group, which remains legal in Hong Kong.

The court writ filed on Saturday said "conviction is against the weight of the evidence," according to Kan.

Hong Kong officials and Wong, who delivered the verdicts, insisted that the case had nothing to do with the practice of Falun Gong meditation. *AP*

Burma's currency plunges

RANGOON—Burma's currency, the kyat, has plunged more than 17 percent against the dollar over recent days, in the latest shock to hit the military-run nation's crippled economy, traders and analysts say.

The recent introduction of a money-laundering law, the prospect of Thai border checkpoints reopening from Sunday and a continued crackdown on illegal currency trading are all contributing to the kyat's fall.

"Never mind that the dollar is not doing well elsewhere... it is a scarce commodity (here)," said one small importer.

Myanmar Economic Holdings, a military-owned corporation, has also ventured into the market to purchase dollars in recent weeks, observers said, fueling the decline.

The non-convertible kyat has been trading on Rangoon's black market over the past three months at around 850 to the dollar, but dropped to more than 1,000 kyat when the market closed Wednesday, rivaling its record lows. *AFP*

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2M Poles attend Pope's Mass

KRAKOW, Poland—Addressing more than 2 million faithful gathered for the nation's largest open-air Mass ever, Pope John Paul II warned Poles of dangers posed by "freedom without responsibility" in the post-communist era.

The Pope, seated as he spoke from raised dais to the vast crowd, exhorted his countrymen not to separate their faith from their politics.

"When the noisy propaganda of liberalism, of freedom without truth or responsibility, grows stronger in our country too, the shepherds of the Church cannot fail to proclaim the one fail-proof philosophy of freedom, which is the truth of the cross of Christ," the Pope said.

John Paul is considered Poland's moral compass and his message reaches a nation increasingly soured on a capitalist system that has created social and economic disparities. It plays into growing sentiments among conservative Catholics that political decisions on issues such as abortion to integrate Poland with western Europe will spoil their country.

The crowd responded to his homily with chants of "Thank you."

Speaking generally about the threats of the modern age, the Pope warned that modern man often "lives as if God does not exist," referring to genetic engineering and euthanasia.

"He claims for himself the creator's right to interfere in the mystery of human life. He wishes to determine human life through genetic manipulation and establish the limit of death," said John Paul, who beatified three Polish priests and a nun during the Mass.

Overflowing the vast Blonia meadows, Polish faithful arrived throughout the night to see their favorite son on what many fear will be his last pilgrimage home.

As John Paul circled the crowd in the popemobile, pilgrims sang choruses of "Poland loves you, Krakow loves you," a song written for a planned Mass at the meadows in 1999 that the Pope canceled due to a sudden flu. And as the Pope was raised by a lift onto the wooden platform holding the papal alter, the crowd chanted: "You are at home."

Many pilgrims traveled hours in small parish groups on buses and trains for the Mass, carrying food and bedrolls to catch a few hours sleep after arriving in the early morning hours. Some strummed guitars and played drums, creating a festival atmosphere as they streamed passed vendors grilling meats and selling stools, hats and papal souvenirs.

"I have constantly tears in my eyes today. I'm afraid I'll cry when I see him passing. It's such a distinction from God that the Pope is Polish," said Magda Fidej, 52, from Krakow.

The ailing, 82-year-old Pope's spirits appeared strengthened by his journey back to Krakow, buoyed by memories and the tens of thousands pilgrims who have greeted and serenaded him in the medieval capital where he lived for 40 years.

On Saturday, John Paul slept in his old bed, visited his old street and drove by the quarry, no longer used, where he labored during the Nazi occupation. *AP*

POPE warns of freedom without responsibility. AP

Release of terror suspects sought

KARACHI—Pakistan is seeking the release of some of the 58 Pakistanis held at the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba because they are not hardcore al-Qaida members, a senior official said Saturday.

Interior Minister Moinuddin Haider said a team of Pakistan anti-terrorism experts had visited Guantanamo recently to interrogate Pakistanis and others held there. Most of them were not al-Qaida members but simply ordinary people who went to Afghanistan to fight for the Taliban during last year's US military campaign, he said.

He hinted at the possible release of some of the prisoners, but did not say how many or when. "We are in contact with US officials to this effect and President (Gen. Pervez) Musharraf would take up the matter in the US next month and we are hopeful for positive results," Haider said. *AP*

Inspector unsure of Iraq arms

UNITED NATIONS—As the United States threatens possible military action against Iraq, the chief UN weapons inspector says he can't say with certainty that Baghdad actually has weapons of mass destruction.

Hans Blix said inspectors still had "many open questions" about Iraq's capability.

"If we knew—if we had real evidence here that they have weapons of mass destruction—we would bring it to the Security Council," he said in an interview Friday with The Associated Press.

The United States has accused Iraq of trying to rebuild its banned weapons programs and of supporting terrorism, and has called for Saddam's ouster. Last week, the Bush administration warned that the Iraqi president could obtain nuclear weapons "in the not too distant future."

This week, American officials said US intelligence agencies had detected signs that Iraq may be moving material or equipment out of a suspected biological weapons facility near Baghdad. *AP*

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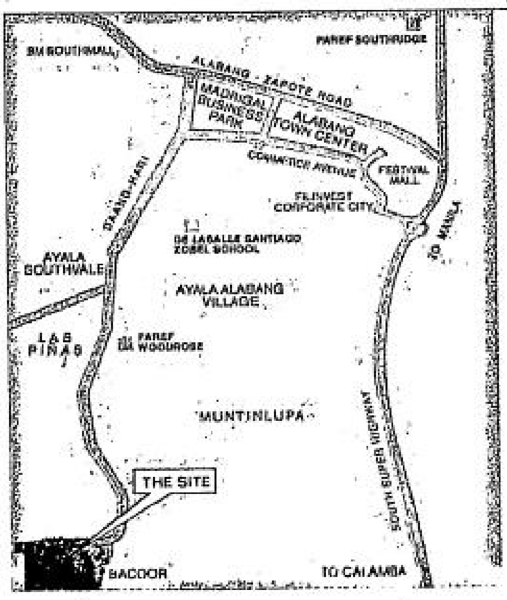

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VOLUNTEERS fill sandbags in the eastern German town of Losswig to stabilize earthworks on the Elbe. AP

German workers battle flood

DRESDEN, Germany—Helicopters ferried sandbags to plug the crumbling dikes of flooding rivers in eastern Germany Sunday, as workers scrambled to protect a huge chemical complex and towns such as Wittenberg, once the home of religious reformer Martin Luther.

Upstream, Dresden authorities were weighing when the sinking level of the Elbe could allow some of the thousands evacuated from the city to return to inspect the damage to their sodden homes.

With Germany now the focus of the flooding that has killed at least 105 people across Europe, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder was to meet in Berlin Sunday with European Commission President Romano Prodi and leaders from Austria, the Czech Republic and Slovakia to discuss how to tackle the devastation.

Insurance company Allianz has estimated the bill in Germany alone at up to 15 billion euros ($14.8 billion).

In the town of Bitterfeld, hundreds of emergency workers and soldiers were working feverishly to fix a break in the bank of the Mulde River, whose water has covered part of the town since Saturday. Its 16,000 inhabitants were evacuated in advance.

Trucked-in sand was being shoveled into sacks. A fleet of six helicopters were dropping the sacks directly into the breach in the dike or setting them down near an industrial site hosting some 350 chemical plants so that more workers could build defenses.

Officials insisted the situation was stable though critical. Environmental groups have warned of a catastrophe if the water reaches the factories and toxic chemicals stored there.

On the Elbe, a dike gave way overnight near Wittenberg, officials said. Emergency workers scrambled to throw up new defenses just to the north as the water advanced, said Ronald Gauert, a spokesperson for the town, which has about 50,000 inhabitants.

The Old Town, where Luther launched the Reformation in 1517, lies on higher ground and is not threatened by the record 6.89 meters of water pressing down the river, Gauert said.

In Dresden, where officials are battling to keep the water out of expensively restored monuments such as the Semper Opera and Zwinger Palace museum, officials said it was possible some residents may be allowed to return home on Sunday.

Several neighborhoods were flooded in recent days, but the Elbe had fallen about 50 cm from its historic high of 9.40 meters reached early Saturday, city spokesperson Karl Schuricht said.

Two bridges across the river have been opened. Divers were examining a third, built in 1893, to see if it was still sound.

Some of the almost 40,000 evacuees across Saxony state were allowed back to their homes in Pirna, further upstream toward the Czech border. Rescue workers no longer needed boats to move around the town, officials said.

Further north, the city of Magdeburg was only beginning to move people out as the Elbe's crest surged toward the North Sea. Still, city officials say they could divert some of the water into a 19th-century relief channel. *AP*

South Asia floods push death toll to 911

PATNA, India—A boat capsized in swirling waters in eastern India killing seven, pushing to 911 the death toll from floods in South Asia that have displaced or trapped 25 million people, officials said Saturday.

The annual monsoon floods have wreaked havoc in the neighboring countries of Nepal, India and Bangladesh since June.

Some 330 have died in India, the latest when the boat went down Friday in a rising river in Bihar state. The accident happened in Khagariya district, 150 km northwest of the Patna, the Bihar capital, the state's Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Ram Vichar Rai said.

The state's water department said intermittent rains on Friday and Saturday kept the water level of most rivers dangerously high. More rains were expected in the catchment areas of some rivers, it said.

About 1 million hectares of maize crops have been destroyed and more than 15 million people in 7,825 villages have been affected in the state, located along the eastern Himalayan foothills.

At least 276 people have died in Bihar. Most of the other deaths in India have been in the hilly northeast. Yet most of India is actually facing its worst drought in years.

Across the border in Bangladesh, a river burst its banks Saturday, inundating dozens of villages amid forecasts that more rains could add to the suffering of millions displaced by earlier floods.

The Jamuna River in the north of the country overflowed, leaving at least 2,000 people displaced or stranded in their villages, a relief official said.

It was the third round of monsoonal flooding to hit the low-lying river delta nation since June.

The relief official in Sirajganj district, 100 km northwest of the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka, said that thousands of people had yet to return to their homes devastated by the earlier floods.

There were no reports of fresh casualties.

At least 157 people have been killed and nearly 7 million displaced in Bangladesh.

Weather officials have forecast more rains and more flooding in Bangladesh and neighboring India next week. Most of the Bangladesh's 250 rivers originate in the Himalayas and run through India before draining into the Bay of Bengal. *AP*

Rain fails to clear smoke haze over KL

KUALA LUMPUR—Mild rainfall Sunday failed to vanquish a smoke haze that is expected to linger for several more days over Malaysia's largest city, officials said Sunday.

Smoke has drifted to Malaysia and Brunei in recent days from wildfires raging in Indonesia's Sumatra island and Kalimantan province, where farmers often start illegal fires to clear land cheaply.

In suburbs surrounding Kuala Lumpur, visibility remained as low as 6 km, about half the average level on a clear day, a meteorological department spokesperson said on condition of anonymity.

A few hours of rain were "too brief" to clear the smog, and the visibility rate was only expected to rise later this week, she said.

The smog has so far been heaviest in two Malaysian states on Borneo island, where some flights were recently canceled. Visibility in Kuching, one of the main cities in Borneo, dipped to one kilometer early Sunday, the meteorological department reported.

Southeast Asia suffered its worst haze in 1997, when fires raged out of control for weeks during the dry season, enveloping Singapore and parts of Malaysia and Indonesia with thick smoke and sparking a diplomatic row.

The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations agreed in June to combat air pollution from fires by strengthening their fire-fighting forces, enforcing legislation to control open burning and establishing early warning systems to prevent cross border pollution.

Asean comprises Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, Brunei, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Burma. *AP*

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2 more Army battalions sent to Sulu

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Southern Command chief Lt. General Ernesto Carolina has confirmed the deployment of two more Army battalions to Sulu in connection with the intensified operations there against the top leaders of the Abu Sayyaf.

The military's operations in the island-province against bandit leaders Khadaffy Janjalani, Galib Andang alias Robot, Mujib Susukan and Radulan Sahiron were dubbed Operation Sting Ray and Eagle Claw.

Carolina refused to provide additional details except to say the deployment was aimed at reinforcing the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade there.

He said the additional troopers would help prevent the four Abu Sayyaf leaders from merging their forces or from taking new hostages.

Carolina confirmed that the military in Basilan had included a ranking leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in its list of targeted enemies.

He said the manhunt against commander Amir Mingkong was launched after the military established his link with the Abu Sayyaf.

Carolina said Mingkong provided support to Janjalani's and Abu Sabaya's groups particularly during the Dos Palmas hostage crisis.

For his efforts, the rebel leader allegedly received P300,000 from the bandit leaders.

The MILF confirmed that Mingkong sheltered the Abu Sayyaf leaders last year, which prompted it to sack the "erring commander."

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said Mingkong was no longer a recognized commander and that any operation against his group would not be treated as a violation of the existing ceasefire agreement between the MILF and the government.

The manhunt for the Abu Sayyaf leaders was stepped up just as efforts to neutralize other kidnapping groups in Mindanao continue.

According to authorities in General Santos City, a leader of the Abu Sufia kidnap-for-ransom gang expressed desire to turn state witness against a town official and two police officers linked to the Feb. 6 kidnapping of Korean national Jae Keon-yoon and General Santos hotelier Carlos Belonio.

Abdulsalim Gogo alias commander Salem asked his police custodians that he be placed under the government's witness protection program.

Earlier, Gogo linked Mayor Labualas Mamansual of Palembang, Sultan Kudarat, Supt. Abubakar Mangelen and Sultan Kudarat provincial traffic officer Chief Insp. Kadil Masahod in the Jae-Belonio abduction.

Mamansual denied the accusation.

He said he only facilitated the safe release of the two captives. *Julie S. Alipala, Aquiles Z. Zonio with a report from Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

TEACHING JOBS FOR SALE

Ouster of Roco alarms syndicate victims

MATI, Davao Oriental—Victims of an alleged syndicate offering teaching jobs for sale here have expressed their "deep concern" over the resignation of Education Secretary Raul Roco.

They said they were afraid that an investigation, which was initiated by Roco on the matter, would be whitewashed.

Roco's investigation already netted one suspect, division superintendent Juan Taloma, since it started early this year.

"He is the only secretary of the Department of Education who dared to conduct an investigation of that syndicate operating inside the DepEd office here and fired the DepEd chief here. He is such a brave and principled man. Previous DepEd secretaries never dared to do what Secretary Roco did. Now with his resignation from the Cabinet, we are afraid the investigation he started will lead to nowhere," Marites, a victim of the "teaching jobs for sale" syndicate here said.

The teacher applicants earlier told Roco in a letter that they each paid up to P50,000 to unscrupulous education officials here who promised them teaching positions.

But despite having handed the money three years ago, many of them were still waiting for the promised jobs.

Some female teacher applicants also told Roco that education officials asked them for sexual favors.

Custodio Untal, an elementary school principal in Lupon town, said he was told that applicants in the town paid at least P50,000 "in the hope of getting teaching jobs."

"But all of them are still waiting for the promised teaching jobs," Untal told the INQUIRER.

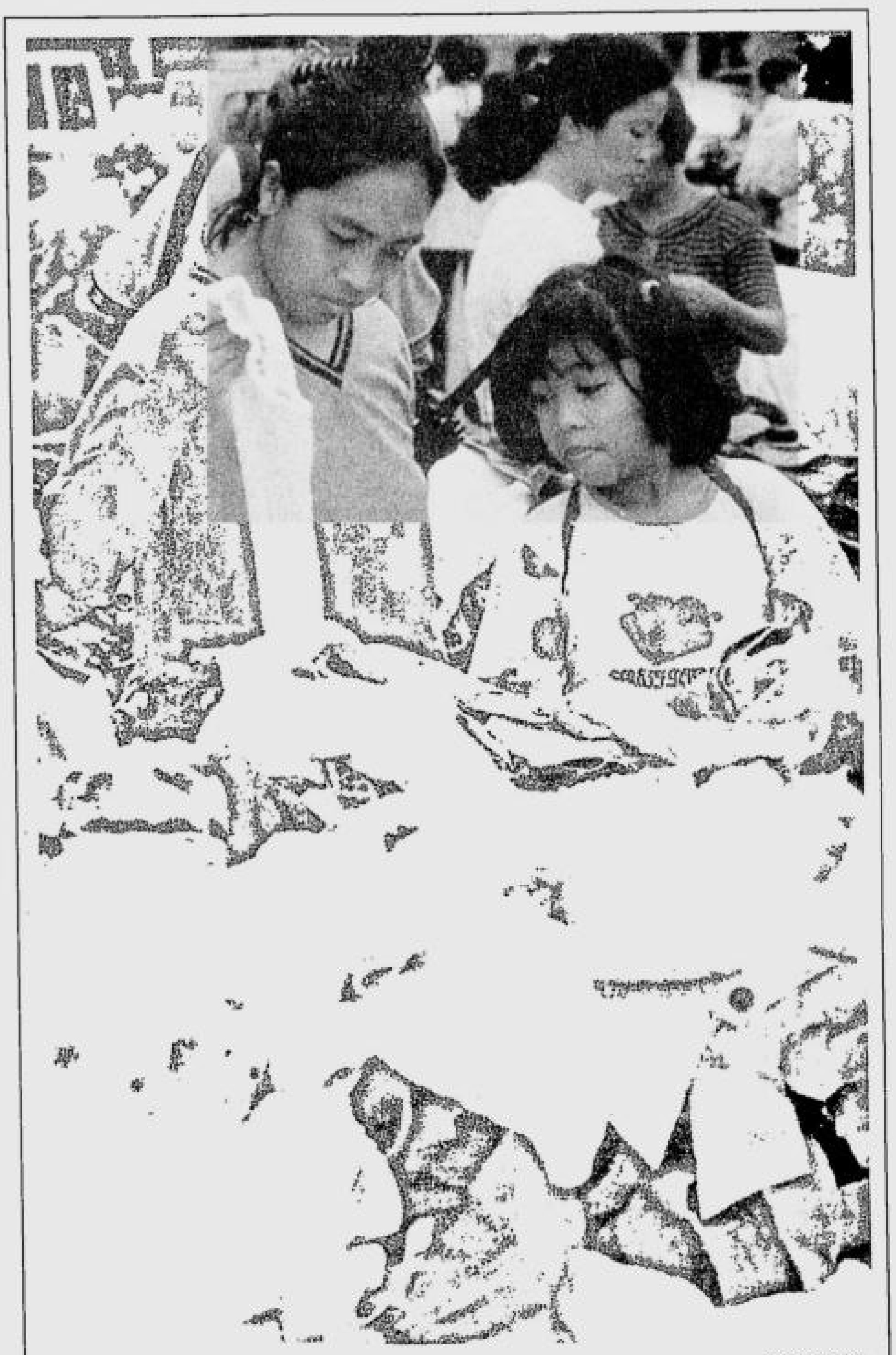
But some education officials here did not hide their happiness over Roco's resignation.

"Well, we are very happy that he will soon leave the education department because he just caused disunity in the DepEd. He projected an image of a clean man, but he is not," said a supervisor who asked not to be identified.

Roco resigned after President Macapagal endorsed an investigation of his alleged violation of anti-graft laws.

Malacanang said Roco was not being singled out and other officials faced investigation.

The President has since accepted Roco's resignation but it caused a rift in the ruling party Lakas. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



BING GONZALES

MALL OF THE PEOPLE
Despite the government's crackdown on stalls selling used clothing at bargain prices, vendors continue to enjoy brisk sales. The so-called *ukay-ukay* shops dot the sidewalks of Davao City.

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

EN BANC

A.M. No. 02-8-02-SC

RE: PROPOSED RULES REQUIRING NOTARIES PUBLIC TO HOLD OFFICE AT A SPECIFIC AND APPROPRIATE ADDRESS/ADDRESSES

RESOLUTION

Acting on the recommendation of the Committee on Legal Education and Legal Matters, the Court resolved to APPROVE the proposed rules requiring notaries public to hold office at a specific and appropriate address/addresses.

These Rules shall take effect on September 2, 2002 following its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and shall supersede Administrative Circular No. 11-93, dated June 30, 1993.

August 13, 2002.

HILARIO G. DAVIDE, JR.
Chief Justice

JOSUE N. BELLOSILLO
Associate Justice

REYNATO S. PUNO
Associate Justice

JOSE C. VITUG
Associate Justice

VICENTE V. MENDOZA
Associate Justice

ARTEMIO V. PANGANIBAN
Associate Justice

LEONARDO A. QUISUMBING
Associate Justice

CONSUELO YNARES-SANTIAGO
Associate Justice

(on leave)
ANGELINA SANDOVAL-GUTIERREZ
Associate Justice

ANTONIO T. CARPIO
Associate Justice

MA. ALICIA AUSTRIA-MARTINEZ
Associate Justice

RENATO C. CORONA
Associate Justice

RULES REQUIRING NOTARIES PUBLIC TO HOLD OFFICE AT A SPECIFIC AND APPROPRIATE ADDRESS/ADDRESSES

WHEREAS, there is a need to improve supervision by Executive Judges of notaries public in the exercise of their functions; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to prevent the office of the notary public from being demeaned and degraded by improper practices such as the performance of notarial services along sidewalks and in other inappropriate public places

NOW, THEREFORE, the following rules are hereby prescribed for observance by all concerned:

1. A notary public shall render notarial services only in his office. On certain exceptional occasions or situations, notarial services may be performed in the following sites:

a) Public offices, convention halls, and other appropriate public places for the purpose of administering oaths of office;
b) At the request of the parties, public function areas in hotels and other appropriate places for the signing of contracts, deeds, and other documents requiring notarization;
c) Residence of any party to a contract, deed, or other document requiring notarization;
d) Hospitals and other medical institutions where a party to a contract is confined for treatment;
e) Any place where for legal reason a party to a contract, deed, or other document requiring notarization may be confined; and
f) Such other places as may be dictated because of emergency

In all of the above instances, the notary public concerned shall ensure that his function is performed with utmost solemnity and dignity.

2. Pursuant to these rules, applications for the issuance of commissions of notaries public, or renewal thereof, as well as the monthly reports required by § 246 of Act No. 2657, shall also state the following:

a) The office address/addresses of the applicant/notary public;
b) The legal basis (whether by lease or otherwise) on which the applicant/notary public is holding office in the said address/addresses; and
c) That the applicant/notary public will inform the Executive Judge within ten (10) days of any change in the previously given office address/addresses.

Any false statement therein or any violation hereof shall be a ground for the denial of the application or the revocation of the notarial commission as so provided in Act No. 2657, § 249, pars. (g) and (h) without prejudice to the imposition of appropriate administrative sanctions against the offender.

In the supervision of notaries public, Executive Judges may avail themselves of the assistance of the local chapters of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines within their respective jurisdictions.

These Rules shall take effect on September 2, 2002 following its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and shall supersede Administrative Circular No. 11-93, dated June 30, 1993

Importation killing Benguet veggie industry

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Vegetable farmers here were surprised when their big buyers from Metro Manila suddenly dropped them like hot potatoes.

Reports from the Department of Agriculture said vegetable buyers from Metro Manila began to import temperate vegetables like carrots, potatoes, cabbage, cucumber and even lettuce from Taiwan and China.

Worse, according to Elizabeth Verzola, DA Cordillera director, Benguet farmers who supply 80 to 85 percent of these vegetables to Metro Manila markets cannot do anything with the importation until next year.

"This is expected because of the opening of the foreign market due to (the government's commitment to the WTO (World Trade Organization) and the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade). These crops were not protected unlike rice and corn," Verzola said.

She said they had brought this issue to Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor and the DA assured Benguet farmers they would have so-called "trigger prices" for these vegetables.

The trigger prices, Verzola said, are the standard price ceilings that would be applied to vegetables.

"Up to now, we still don't have trigger prices on these commodities," she said.

Verzola said the movement of prices of temperate vegetables in La Trinidad, Benguet, are like a "roller-coaster ride."

During the typhoons in early July, for example, prices of vegetables tripled, with potatoes at P60 a kilogram, cabbage at P50 a kilo, and carrots at P60 a kilo.

Last week, when buyers from Metro Manila began refusing Benguet vegetables, the prices went down to P15 a kilo for potatoes and P20 a kilo for cabbage.

Verzola said prices have returned to their normal levels, except for potatoes that still sell for P20 a kilo. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

216 stalls in Clark park face eviction

ANGELES CITY—A group of businessmen here supported plans of the Clark Development Corp. (CDC) to evict at least 216 illegal establishments at the Bayanihan Park developed by a United States Air Force commander in the 1970s.

The Metro Angeles Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Macci), in a resolution, endorsed the plan of the CDC to start a "world-class park" at the 12-hectare park just across the Clark Special Economic Zone.

In a 99-page book reminiscing his stint in Clark, Col. William Truesdell, Clark Air Base commander from January 1972 to August 1973, said he had developed the park, beautifying it by raising funds from cockfights.

Residents in this city, especially those in Barangay Balibago, have used the tree-lined square for recreation and sports activities. Transport groups have converted an area into a common terminal. The city government and the CDC had held trade fairs at the park.

Since 1995, hundreds of vendors and leaseholders operating beer joints, karaoke bars and other commercial shops had resisted the eviction plan and the park renovation for lack of a relocation site.

The Macci's resolution said, "some of the 216 establishments and shacks serve as fronts for prostitution."

This, according to the chamber, "does not compliment CDC's thrust to develop a world class investment site, aviation complex and tourism estate for the benefit of millions of residents in the Metro Clark communities."

Emmanuel Angeles, CDC president and chief executive officer, said a "multi-million peso, state-of-the-art theme park" would be built in the Bayanihan Park. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Army urged to let pregnant NPA suspect rest

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Human rights advocates in Northern Mindanao have asked the military to allow a pregnant woman being held by the military on suspicion that she was a New People's Army guerrilla to seek medical help.

Karapatan issued the call after a visit to Zenaida Llesis, 40, the alleged secretary of the NPA's Front 6A.

Llesis was arrested during a military operation in Rocky Village, Pangantukan in Bukidnon on August 5.

She has since been detained at the headquarters of the 4th Infantry Division here.

Lawyer Beverly Selim-Musni of Karapatan said that during their visit to Llesis on Monday, they found the suspected rebel was being subjected to rigid interrogation despite her delicate pregnancy.

"The AFP is supposed to protect the people yet what Llesis is experiencing right now is virtually a violation of her rights and that of her baby," Musni said.

The interrogation, Musni said, had taken a toll on the captive. She said Llesis was experiencing bleeding, which could lead to abortion.

Dr. Fortunato Jamis, a doctor whom Karapatan commissioned during the visit, told the INQUIRER that Llesis's blood pressure was very low.

Jamis said she was also suffering from *tachycardic*, an abnormal palpitation of the heart, which requires a complete bed rest.

But Brig. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, commander of the 4th Infantry Division, said the military was taking care of Llesis.

He said what they were after was information from her about the activities of the NPA in Bukidnon.

Dagudag said the military was not about to let go of the suspected rebel especially after Judge Jesus Barroso, acting judge of the RTC-12 in Malaybalay City, on Aug. 7 granted their petition to continue holding her in custody.

However, Lawyer Manuel Ravanera, president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines chapter here, assailed the judge's decision saying Llesis was not able to oppose the petition because she was not provided a counsel.

"The military did not give her the right to a counsel for her to file a motion opposing the said petition. That is illegal," Ravanera said.

He also denounced the continued interrogation of Llesis. *Grace C. Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

House probes raid on Islam school

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ANDA, Pangasinan—Police officials here insisted that the supposed *madrasah* (Islamic school) on an 18-hectare lot in Barangay Mal-ong here that they raided last May was a training ground for suspected terrorists.

But a representative of the arrested suspects said the place was being built into a model Muslim community.

These were the statements gathered Wednesday by congressmen who are investigating the raid conducted by the police on the supposed Islamic school in the village.

Police said the school was being used as a front to train terrorists.

Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin, who authored the resolution for the inquiry, said the results of the public hearing would help improve the bill on anti-terrorism now being discussed in Congress.

On May 2, police and military arrested six men believed to be training to become terrorists in Barangay Mal-ong. They were Dawud Tyrone Santos, Pio de Vera, Marvelo Egil, Allan Borloagdatan, Redendo Dellosa and Angelo Trinidad. They are out on bail.

The order for their release was signed by Judge William Pascua of the Anda municipal trial court on May 22.

Police said the six were fetched by one Gerry Saudi from the Lingayen municipal jail on May 24.

Also recovered from the compound were high-powered firearms, bullets and land mines.

Salapuddin, a Basilan congressman, said the suspects suffered emotional distress and the raid had "maliciously imputed a sinister repute to *madrasahs* throughout the country."

"(For these reasons), the arrests must be examined to ferret out the truth," he said.

During the public hearing, Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, the Pangasinan police director during the raid, said the area was not a *madrasah* "but a theoretical and practical training camp for small weapons."

He said *madrasahs* are Islamic educational institutions that teach Arabic language and Islamic values from the Koran.

Mendoza said instead of teaching Islam, the lectures and training conducted were on the use of guns.

"We have asked Muslim elders from the province and they have denounced the Anda 'students' who are really training for something," Mendoza said.

But Muhammad Wali Santos, brother of Dawud Tyrone Santos, the suspected leader of FI Sabilillah Dah Wah Foundation Inc., said the area was being built into a model Islamic community.

Wali Santos said the unfinished structures were for Muslims who had no place to stay. "It's our duty to help Muslims who stay in other provinces and who have no place to stay," he said.

He said police planted the guns and bullets in the area.

Mendoza said the country needs an anti-terror law.

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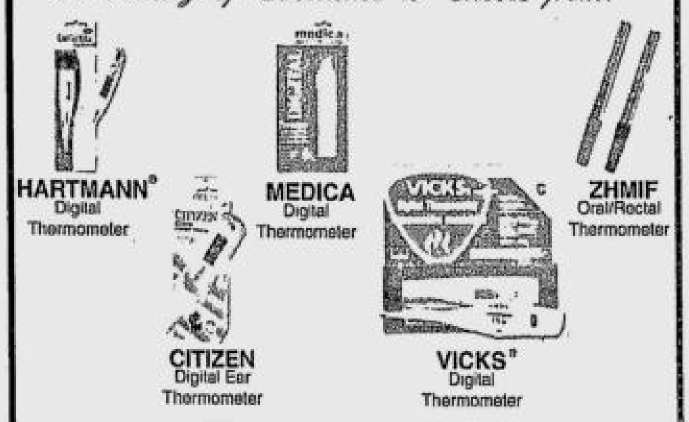
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Gov't owes contractors P5B in unpaid projects

DAVAO CITY—The government owes private contractors some P5 billion in payment for projects that the government implemented nationwide and the bad news for the contractors is that the government might be able to settle only a third of that amount.

Public Works and Highways Secretary Simeon Datumanong said the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) could only release up to P2 billion in government funds to pay the government's dues with private builders.

Datumanong blamed the government's revenue collection shortfall for the accumulation of the debt to the contractors.

He said he wanted to pay the contractors up to last centavo but could not because of lack of funds.

"I am not comfortable when somebody is running after me for *utang*," Datumanong said.

But the public works Secretary could not ascertain when the contractors would finally get the money due them.

"Probably next week. I was promised by DBM. We will pay (the contractors) as soon as possible," Datumanong told reporters here.

Datumanong's admission that the government has multi-billion peso payables to private contractors came out after Davao City-based builders threatened to abandon ongoing projects if the government failed to pay what is due them.

The contractors said they were facing financial difficulties because of the government's debt to them which, for projects in the city alone, already reached P500 million.

Engineer Ramon Allado, president of the Davao Contractors Association Center Inc., said that as of July 19 alone, the government has already owed them P324.3 million for completed projects such as school buildings and roads.

Allado said the contractors could no longer cope with the financial requirements of trying to finish other ongoing projects.

Datumanong, meanwhile, urged the contractors to exercise more patience because the government was trying to settle its obligations.

"I hope they will not demonstrate . . . if they demonstrate we cannot still pay them because we have no money. At least partially, we can pay," Datumanong said. *Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Negros loses P54M to 'Milenyo'

BACOLOD CITY—The damage to crops and fishery products in Negros Occidental brought by tropical depression "Milenyo" has reached P54.2 million, a report from the provincial capitol said.

The report said damage to sugarcane was placed at P24.2 million, based on reports from sugar mill districts in southern Negros.

The Dacongcogon Sugar Central located in Kabangkalan City reported that P5.2 million of sugarcane in its plantation was damaged by the tropical depression.

The Southern Negros Development Corp., also in Kabangkalan, reported P14.5 million in damages to its sugarcane plantation; and the Binalbagan-Isabela Sugar Co., P4.5 million. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Battered woman fights back, ends abuses from hubby

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A 62-year-old housewife had had enough of her husband's philandering and beating and decided she can't take any further abuse.

On Wednesday, Eutiquia Alcover whipped her husband with a coconut frond, stabbed his two eyes, cut off his sex organ and stuffed the organ into her husband's mouth.

Her husband, Aurelio, a farmer, was already dead when policemen arrived in the couple's house in Sitio Anislagan, Guadalupe, Carcar town, about 40 kilometers south of Cebu City.

The police said Aurelio died of loss of blood. Eutiquia was arrested and was detained at the Carcar police station pending the filing of parricide charges against her. The couple has nine children.

But Eutiquia showed no remorse at the detention center, saying she could no longer take the abuses from her husband.

Eutiquia told police that aside from being a womanizer, Aurelio always beat her up and scolded her for the slightest mistake and treated her with contempt.

Eutiquia said prior to what she did to her husband, she and her husband had a heated argument on Wednesday afternoon.

The argument was triggered by Aurelio's anger at her for a mistake.

She said Aurelio got mad at her because there were embers on the pot while she was pouring hot water into his cup.

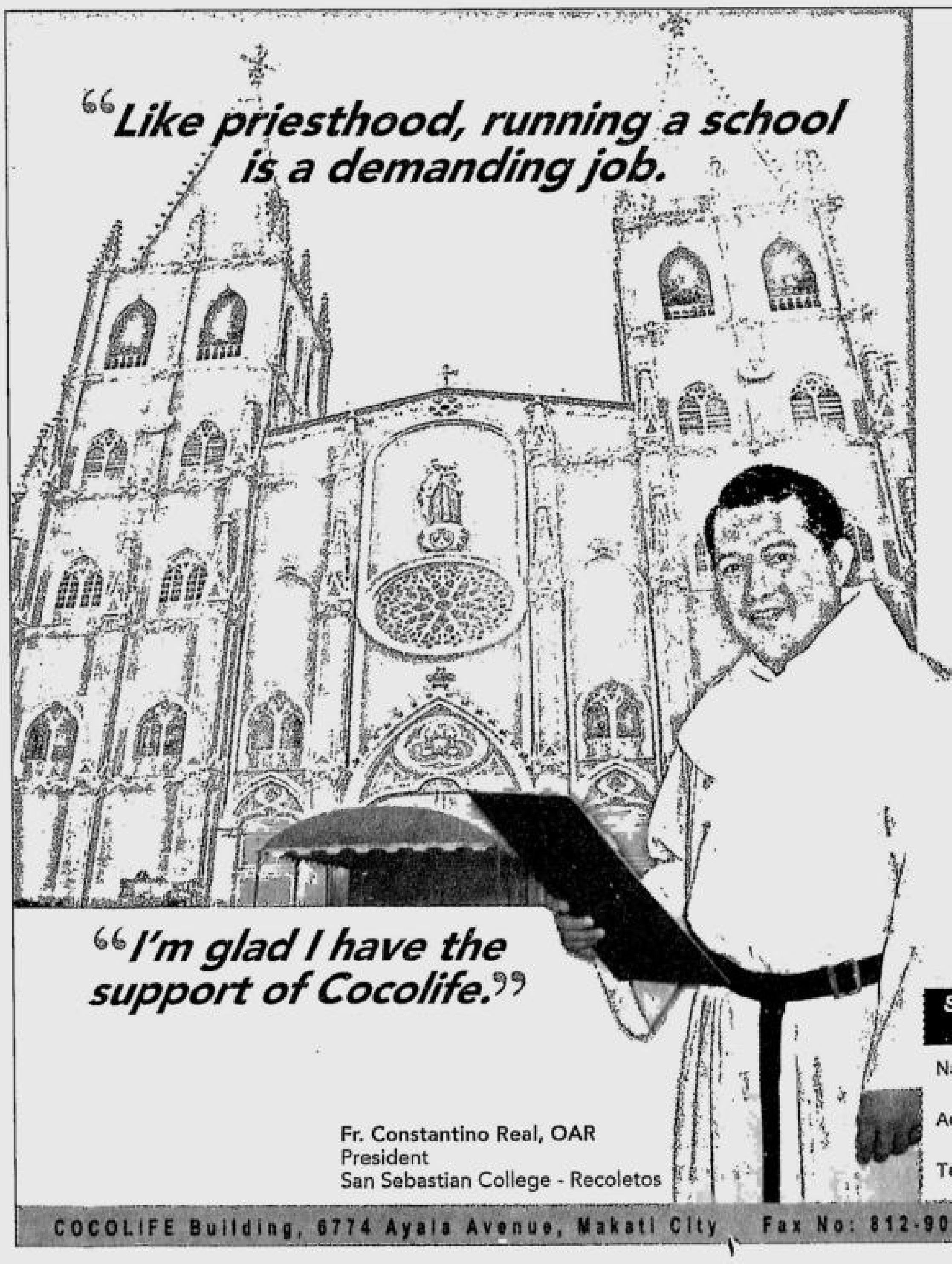
She said Aurelio was angry, stood up and tried to get his *bolo*.

Before Aurelio could get his *bolo*, she seized a coconut frond and whipped Aurelio several times until he fell down.

When Aurelio attempted again to get his *bolo*, Eutiquia immediately grabbed her scissors and stabbed her husband's eyes.

She then stripped off his shorts and his underwear. Using a kitchen knife, she sliced off Aurelio's sex organ.

SPO1 Joseph Quimol of the Carcar police said their operatives failed to find the severed sex organ of Aurelio.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"I'm glad I have the support of Cocolife."

Fr. Constantino Real, OAR
President
San Sebastian College - Recoletos

"Aside from being a priest, I am the school administrator of San Sebastian College. So you can imagine the things I have to do in a day. I have to attend to the spiritual and financial needs of my people. This is where Cocolife has been of great help to me. They have been my support in providing my staff economic freedom.

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Barya-Barya Lang Para Sa Gobyerno, Milyon-Milyon Naman Para Sa PIATCO!

To the Philippine government, we are tempted to say, "We told you so." But, we Filipinos are all in this together, and we cannot gloat over our own misfortune as a nation.

But surely, someone else is laughing all the way to the bank, because he is getting richer while our government is getting poorer.

We refer to the annual "so-called" **guaranteed** payment the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (PIATCO) must remit to our government in the amount of P300 million due within the two-year construction period.

Not even 1% of Guaranteed Payment

Did the Philippine government receive P300 million? No! P200 million? Wrong! OK, one-third of the amount — P100 million? Wrong again! *Ano ba yan!* Don't tell us PIATCO just gave our poor Philippine government only 10 percent — meaning, a measly P30 million? No, you are wrong again.

This is incredible — and our government is most pitiable! Are you ready for this shocking news? **PIATCO is paying the government an extremely insignificant amount of P2.22 million.** It's **not even one percent** of the guaranteed payment of P300 million. Whatever happened to a reassuring word like "guaranteed"?

The P2.2 million is **loose change** compared to the P158 million the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) must pay the Bases Conversation Development Authority (BCDA) every year, representing rental for the site of Terminal 3. Such debt, todate, has not been paid - not even a single centavo. Where did the money go?

The money meant for MIAA was diverted to pay the handsome fees of a Japanese consultant and the exorbitant charges of a favored contractor. Now you know where PIATCO's loyalties lie.

Barya-barya lang para sa ating kawawang Gobyerno. Milyon-milyon naman para sa sinuswerteng PIATCO! At higit na P120 million para sa isang "demolition contractor".

Speaking of a demolition job on our national pride, this surely has no match.

PIATCO makes illegitimate deductions

The June 15, 2001 letter by Mr. Cheng Yong, PIATCO president, to Mr. Edgardo C. Manda, general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), shows how far PIATCO will deprive our government of its rightful claim.

True, PIATCO acknowledged its obligation to disburse the P300 million guaranteed payment to government, but PIATCO quickly deducted what it claimed were obligations from government. A portion of such letter said:

"We have made deductions therefrom representing reimbursements due from GRP under Section 5.04-A(c) of the Amended and Restated Concession Agreement (ARCA), in relation to the fee of the Quality Assurance Inspector, and under Section 4.3 of the Second Supplement, in relation to the demolition and removal of Subterranean Structures."

Let's make it perfectly clear. These deductions cannot be made. PIATCO has cited the agreements under Supplements 1, 2 and 3 of the ARCA — but that's misleading the public and misrepresenting the facts. These agreements have not — we repeat — have not been approved by the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Board. No less than NEDA Director General Dante Canlas said so.

Therefore, these PIATCO deductions are not legitimate. And yet, these agreements are being implemented with impunity. Wow! How can we allow this to happen?

We wonder out loud: Has the Commission on Audit (COA) reviewed and authorized these deductions - that grabbed a huge slice from the government's receivable of P300 million?

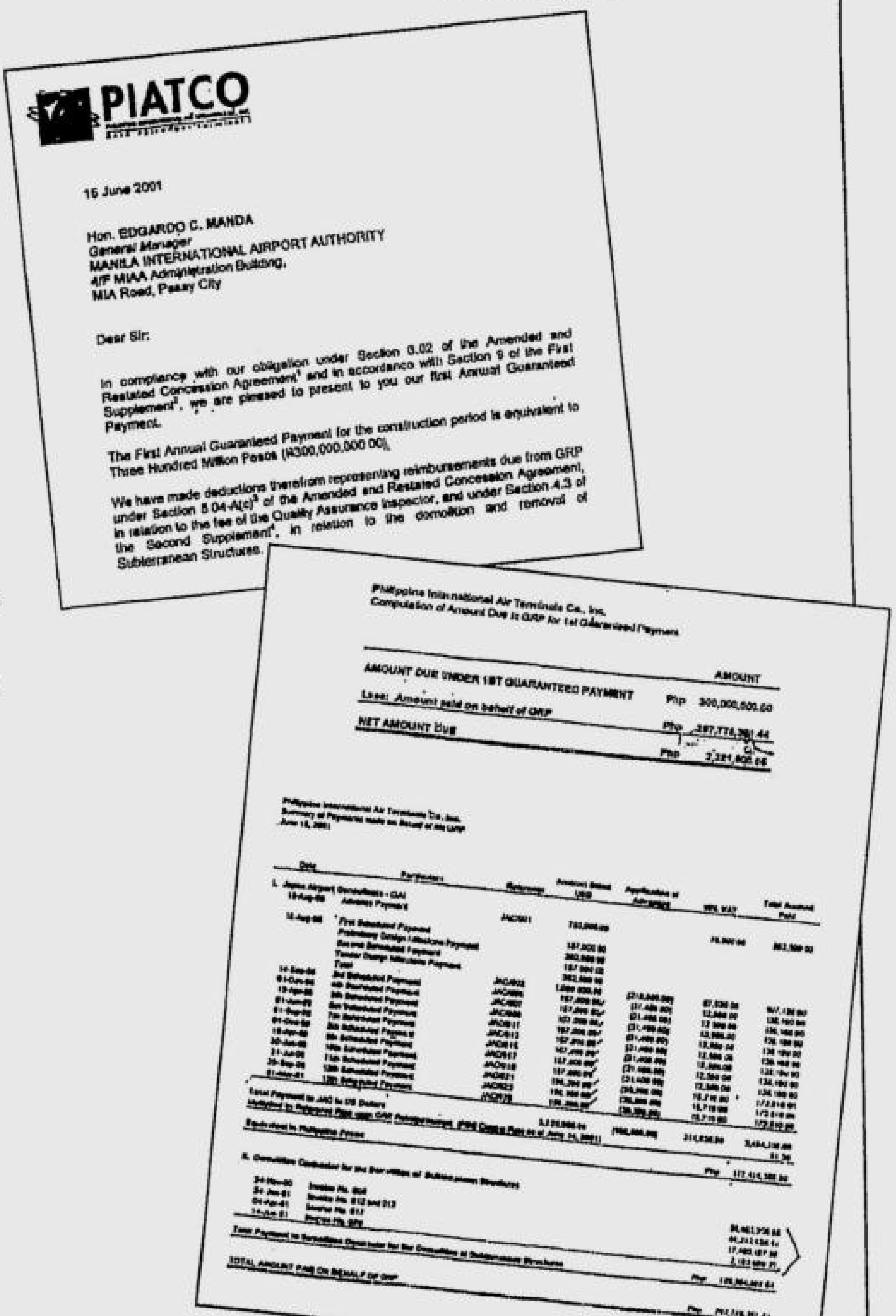
An old trick to steal from gov't

Documents on hand show that Japan Airport Consultants was paid P177.4 million. (Why is the government paying for this? Is this not part of the BOT project?) Meanwhile, the Demolition Contractor was paid a staggering amount of P120.3 million! Curioser and curioser! While the consultant was named, the contractor wasn't. It is public knowledge, though, that the mysterious contractor is Wintrack Builders, owned by the former DOTC Secretary, PIATCO ally, supporter and beneficiary.

By the simple looks of it, everyone made money — PIATCO, consultants and Wintrack — but government was given a pittance! It's an old trick in the trade. With this act of PIATCO, wiggling out of a "so-called" **guaranteed** payment, should the Philippine government continue to deal with PIATCO? We have a term in Filipino to describe the pathetic loser in a win-lose relationship. A Tagalog saying is most apt. "Dalawang klase lang ang tao sa mundo: ang manloloko at ang nagpapaloko."

Madame President: Now you know at what lengths PIATCO would get the "fat" from this lopsided contract, and leave us with the bones and the crumbs. PIATCO's unmerited fortune is the government's undeserved misfortune.

Barya-barya lang pala ang para sa Gobyerno! Pero, milyon-milyon naman ang para sa PIATCO! Ang ating Gobyerno ay talong-talo! Huwag na tayong paloko!



PIATCO

15 June 2001

Hon. EDGARDO C. MANDA
General Manager
MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
4/F MIAA Administration Building,
MIA Road, Pasay City

Dear Sir:

In compliance with our obligation under Section 8.02 of the Amended and Restated Concession Agreement[1] and in accordance with Section 9 of the First Supplement[2], we are pleased to present to you our first Annual Guaranteed Payment.

The First Annual Guaranteed Payment for the construction period is equivalent to Three Hundred Million Pesos (₱300,000,000.00).

We have made deductions therefrom representing reimbursements due from GRP under Section 5.04-A(c)[3] of the Amended and Restated Concession Agreement, in relation to the fee of the Quality Assurance Inspector, and under Section 4.3 of the Second Supplement[4], in relation to the demolition and removal of Subterranean Structures.

Philippine International Air Terminals Co., Inc.
Computation of Amount Due to GRP for 1st Guaranteed Payment

		AMOUNT
AMOUNT DUE UNDER 1ST GUARANTEED PAYMENT	Php	300,000,000.00
Less: Amount paid on behalf of GRP	Php	297,778,391.44
NET AMOUNT Due	Php	2,221,608.56

Madame President:
You have the power to correct this unacceptable situation.

RESCIND THE PIATCO CONTRACT NOW.

MIA-NAIA Association of Service Operators

Advt

Ten Inspirational Entrepreneurial Students (TIES) Awardees to be chosen next week

Awarding Ceremony will be at the First Student Entrepreneurs Fair entitled "Ano Ba ang Raket mo?" organized by Thames Business School and Global Filipino Foundation.

In January 2002, 8 million Filipinos were either without jobs or underemployed, according to statistics from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). At the end of April 2002, about 382,000 students graduated from the country's colleges and universities. What then are the prospects of their landing jobs and becoming productive members of society?

One solution adapted by other countries is to encourage their next generation of business professionals to become job-makers, instead of becoming job-seekers.

It was in this light that **Thames International Business School** in cooperation with the **Global Filipino Foundation** initiated the **Ten Inspirational Entrepreneurial Students (TIES) Awards.** The **TIES Awards** will be the first recognition of its kind to students who embody the entrepreneurial spirit.

40 student entrepreneurs will be chosen from 25 participating colleges and universities in Metro Manila. The pre-screening judges for the 40 initial candidates are members of the prestigious **Young Entrepreneurs Organization (YEO)**. This initial group shortlisted for the awards will be given the opportunity to showcase their products and services in the **1st Students Entrepreneurship Fair**, entitled **"Ano ba ang Raket mo?"** to be held at **Megatrade Hall 3, SM Megamall,** this coming **August 23-24.**

The ten most outstanding student entrepreneurs will then be chosen from the 40 exhibitors. They will be the first batch of TIES Awardees. The Awarding Ceremony will be the culminating event of the two-day fair. Cash prizes will be given to each awardee.

The TIES awardees will hopefully serve as an example and inspiration to their fellow students to take on the path of being a job-maker and not another job-seeker. The organizers and sponsors believe that this would have a direct impact in alleviating the nation's unemployment situation.

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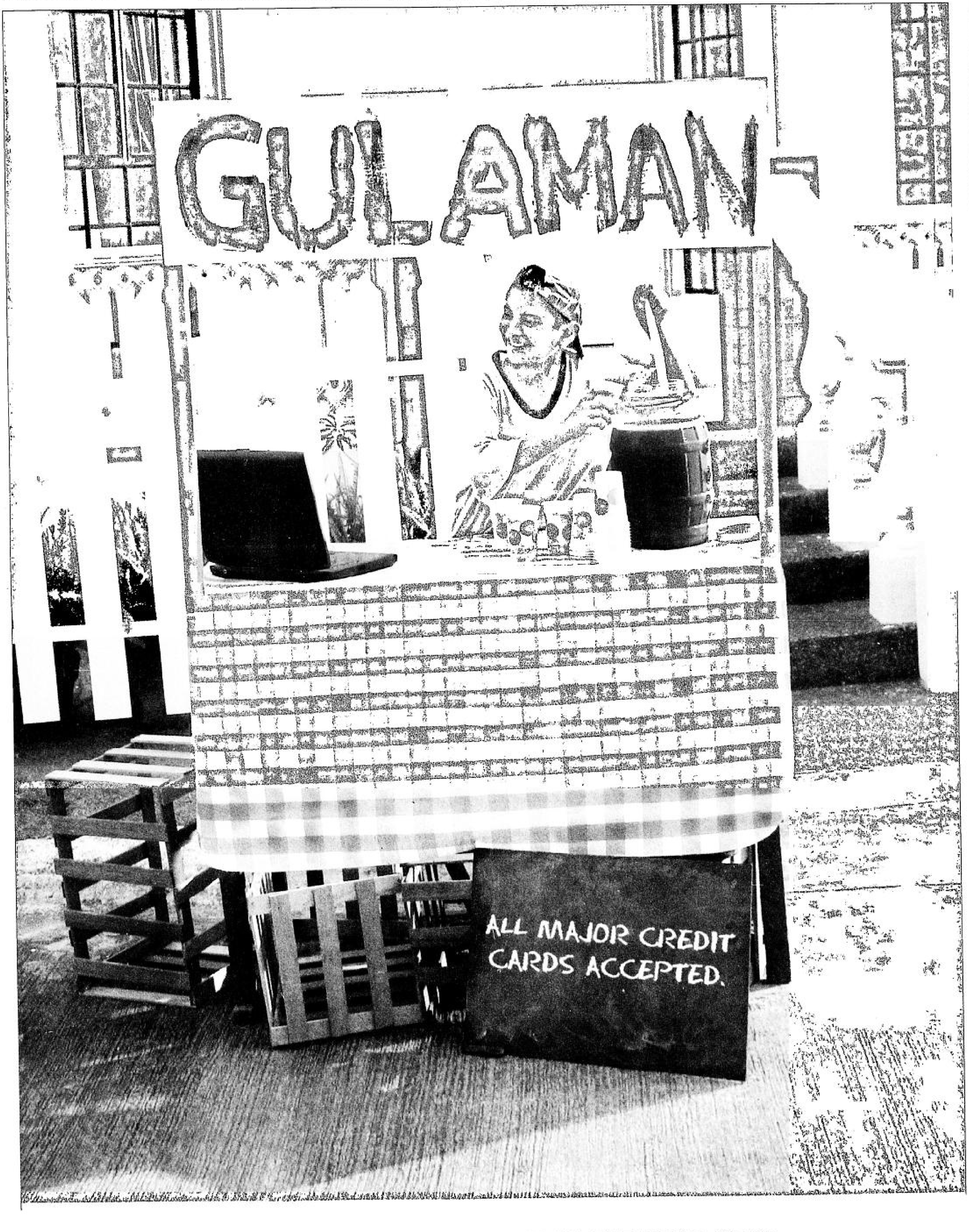
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Peace talks between gov't, NDF near collapse

From page A1

gime for having already scuttled the GRP-NDF peace negotiations," Sison said.

He added: "Senator Biazon is being impertinent. Friends who know my sense of irony and sense of humor are having a big laugh from the way the rotten politicians and their military cohorts twist my statement."

Presidential adviser on special concerns Norberto Gonzales said Sison, founding chair of the CPP, "cannot afford to have a collapse of the talks."

"Joma and his associates need the peace process for their own political survival," he said in a phone interview.

Gonzales and Silvestre Afable, head of the Presidential Management Staff, were earlier appointed by Ms Macapagal as her back-channel negotiators after talks were suspended in June last year.

Gonzales said he and Afable were merely waiting for the government panel to complete a draft of a proposed "final peace agreement." The draft will be presented to the President and the Cabinet oversight committee on national security before it is sent to NDF negotiators.

The government panel is composed of Silvestre Bello III as chair; and Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza, Rene Sarmiento, Chito Gascon and Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel as members.

A second source noted that the government panel was supposed to complete the draft on Aug. 16 when the negotiators met.

Hands tied

Like the first source, the second source said the panel found its hands tied by the guidelines issued by the Palace on how to deal with communist rebels.

"There was no mention that formal negotiations will continue," the source said. "The panel feels that it needs to be clarified about its status."

The guidelines said the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), had "engaged in terrorist acts." These were released a few days after the US government classified the CPP-NPA as a "foreign terrorist organization."

The CPP considers the US declaration a prelude to American intervention in the 34-year-old communist insurgency.

The second source explained that the guidelines simply mentioned that "the government will maintain open lines of communications with the CPP-NPA."

When asked for comment, Bello confirmed that the panel was not able to complete the draft of the proposed final peace agreement. He did not elaborate.

"We hope we can finalize it this week though," Bello said in a telephone interview. "We will present it to President Macapagal and let's see how it develops from there," he said.

The first source mentioned at least three reasons the peace process teetered on the verge of collapse.

- Continuing exchange of bellicose statements between the two parties, with the President herself tagging communist rebels terrorists and rebel leaders calling for offensives, including attacks against US interests in the country.
- Rejection by the NDF of Gonzales, a staunch anti-communist since the 1960s, as back-channel government negotiator.
- Absence of goodwill measures, a situation worsened by perceived "squeeze" tactics against leftist leaders like the revival of illegal gun possession charges against Satur Ocampo, former NDF negotiator and now Bayan Muna party-list representative.

Doors still open

But Gonzales said the communist rebels could not survive an all-out war and the repercussions brought by an open conflict. "They (rebels) need to continue the negotiations," Gonzales said. "As far as the government is concerned, it will leave doors open for talks."

He earlier said that the ultimate objective of the talks was the "demobilization" of the NPA.

Gonzales has been rejected by the NDF as a back-channel negotiator.

"Even earlier, we had already stated that we did not agree with such back-channel talks oriented toward the demobilization of the NPA," Jalandoni said.

Sison was more forthright in his comment: "(Eduardo) Ermita and Bello should stop using public funds to negotiate with their own shadows and to babble ad nauseam about back-channeling forever."

"They should be ashamed of using public funds while there are no GRP-NDF peace negotiations for the duration of the Macapagal regime," he said.

Inspire

Sison said he could retire as NDF chief political consultant but could still write and "inspire the leaders and the masses to fight for their own national and democratic rights and interests."

"I am well connected to the people with my writings. My writings have always been my best contribution to the people's movement for national liberation and democracy," he said.

He also chided those who think that the NPA might end up as a "lost command" should he retire.

"The NPA consists of Red fighters and commanders who are determined to win the new democratic revolution. It has a high level of revolutionary consciousness and a high sense of duty to serve the people," he said.

He pointed out that it was the Macapagal administration that was inciting the people to revolt and the NPA to carry out offensives.

"The kidnapping, torture and murder of so many leaders of Bayan Muna, as well as trade union leaders, peasants, youth, women and the like are grim signs of more atrocities from the US-directed Macapagal regime," Sison said.

The top communist leader said Sison warned Ms Macapagal that "she could not be too sure about the pacification of the people and the revolutionary forces by getting funds and arms from the US."

Apolitical Mr. Butterfly

From page A1

named the best of them after his wife and children.

But unlike a Malabon zoo caretaker, who has named his tigers after personalities such as "Cory" and "Erap," Lumawig, 77, would not consider naming any of his butterflies after a politician.

"I don't think politicians should be given much importance. They only use people for their personal ends. Conscientious politicians are very rare these days, if they exist at all," Lumawig told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

He said there was no such thing as a rare butterfly. "Some butterflies are actually seasonal. There's a time of the year when they all go out, then they hide again. But they're always there," he said.

Born and raised in the land of the colorful Moriones, Lumawig said the environment in which he grew up gave him every reason to love nature.

"Marinduque is one of the smallest island-provinces in the country, but it is very rich in resources. When I was a kid, I only needed to get out of the house to see the beauty of nature," he said.

Lumawig is actually a late bloomer in his field, having started collecting at age 26. By then, he was already married to Gertrude Ocampo, with whom he has five daughters and three sons.

He left home in the mid-1940s and worked in Manila's City Hall to be able to send himself to the Philippine College of Commerce and Business Administration (now University of the East).

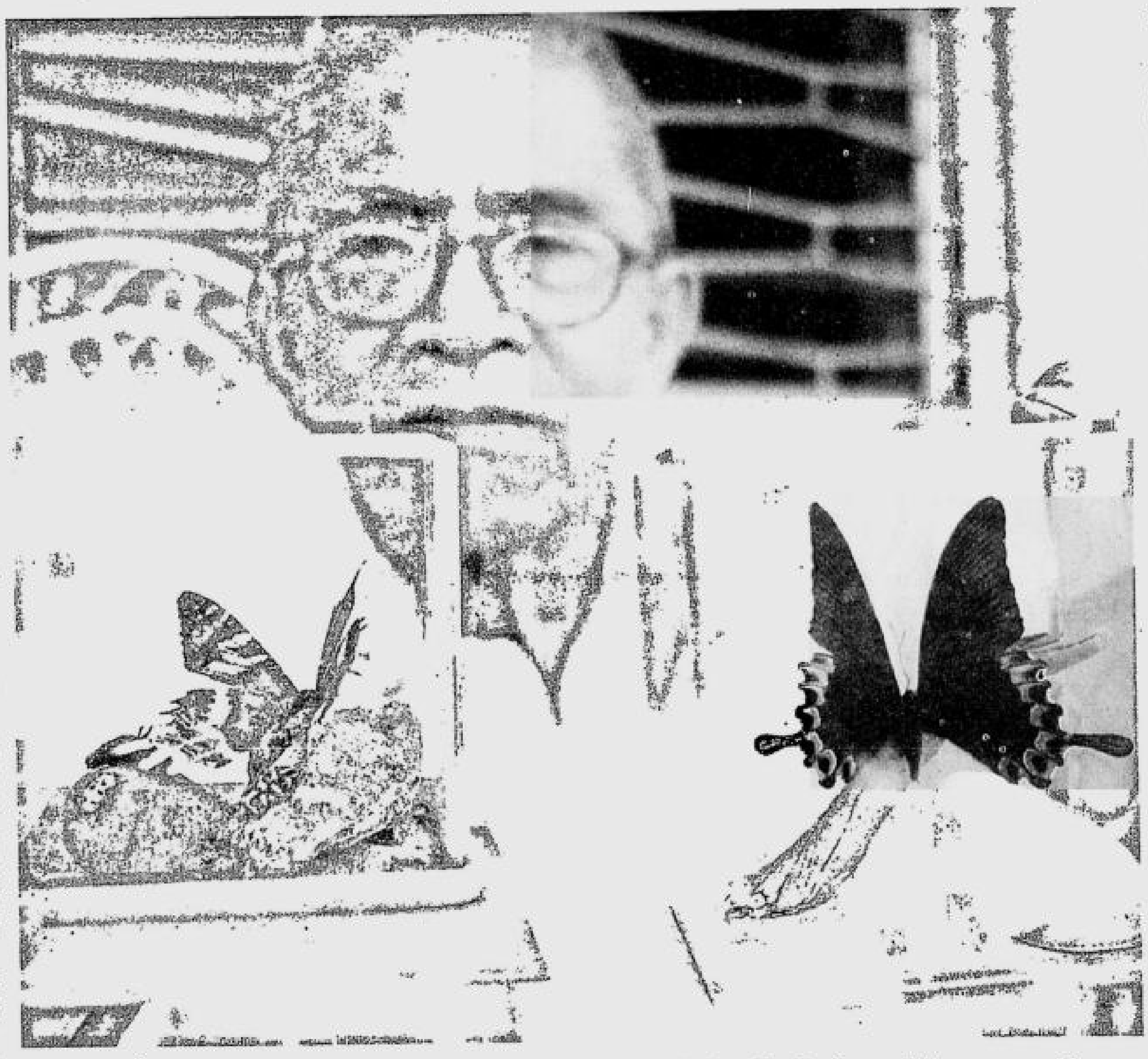
He graduated with a degree in business management in 1950, but he would continue working for the government until 1966.

"I collected only seashells and snails at first. Then in the early 1970s, I got curious about insects, particularly butterflies and beetles," he said.

So while many political activists were leaving the cities for the countryside to seek refuge from the soldiers of the Marcos dictatorship, Lumawig made his own trips to the mountains to explore habitats of undiscovered insects.

He went practically all over the Philippines to collect insects, going to as far as Batanes and scaling Mt. Apo and Mt. Isarog.

None of his efforts was wasted.



ROMEO Lumawig shows a moth with multicolored wings and a butterfly from Mt. Province, which are among his insect collections.

JOAN BONDOC

New to science

"I have discovered many species of butterflies and other insects that are new to science. They have been named after me and members of my family and published in scientific journals all over the world," Lumawig said proudly.

Some of the butterfly species named after the Lumawig family are the *Jacoona gertrudes* (for Lumawig's wife Getrude), *Pratapa tyotaroi ismaeli* (for his son Ismael), *Vanessa d. dejeani* (for his daughter Vanessa).

Lumawig also paid tribute to his home province by naming after it the butterfly species *Dacalana monsapona marinduquensis*.

On the other hand, the species *Tagalog lumawigi*, *Rhaphipodus manillae*, *Prosopocoelus gertrudae*, *Prosopocoelus marione* (for his daughter Marion), *Prosopocoelus vittatus bayanii* (for his son Bayani) and the *Serrognathus lumawigorum* are among the beetles Lumawig had discovered.

He said all the insects he discovered were identified in foreign countries because "people here are not very interested in these things."

Hobby, livelihood

"So every time I caught insects, I preserved and sent them to my contacts abroad for identification," Lumawig said. He admitted that what started as a simple hobby eventually turned into a source of livelihood with which he supported his family.

Now, Lumawig could not recite the life cycle of a butterfly anymore. But he said he was not bothered. After all, his children are there to help him out and take over his hobby-cum-business.

"My children all grew up with insects. I'm not surprised that they all took interest in them," he said.

One of Lumawig's daughters, Elizabeth, and her husband are part owners of The Butterfly House, a breeding farm on Elliptical Road in Quezon City. The couple owns other breeding farms in Rizal, Laguna, Bohol and Marinduque.

Lumawig said his daughter Elizabeth met her husband, Thierry Heitzman, when the French entomologist came to Manila to see Lumawig.

French son-in-law

With butterflies as their common interest, the two hit it off in no time. Elizabeth's father could not be happier, Lumawig said.

Still, Lumawig could not seem to content himself with his many contributions to science.

In 1992, he made his last attempt at finding wild butterflies in the mountains of Mindoro.

"But he was already too old for such an activity. Our Mangyan guide told us that the butterfly habitat was quite near from where we started walking. Apparently, we had different ideas of what near meant," Lumawig's son Ismael said.

He related that his father collapsed and turned blue after hiking some distance. They had no choice but to turn back.

"There are just so many other insects to discover. And even if I got to work until I'm a hundred years old, I would not be able to name them all," Lumawig said.

Paper trail casts doubt on Palace plot vs Roco

From page A1

tral Office Employees Union.

It asked the President to initiate an investigation of anti-graft allegations detailed in the union's resolution that also called for Roco's dismissal from the Cabinet.

Marginal note

I learned from those with experience in Palace bureaucratic procedures that the referral of complaints addressed to the President was routine. The letter of complaint had a marginal note, signed by the President, which reads "PAGC Rama."

On the morning of Aug. 13, the Palace press office was buzzing with reports from two radio reporters that the President had endorsed to the PAGC a complaint alleging corruption against Roco.

The INQUIRER's Palace reporter as well as radio reporters called up Rama to try to confirm the reports.

Rama confirmed there was a complaint. Radio and TV reported that the President had Roco investigated, and the news spread rapidly all over town. After hearing the news, Roco called a press conference at 11 a.m. at the Manila Hotel and announced that he was quitting the Cabinet.

On Aug. 13, he fired off a letter to the President, saying: "It came as a surprise ... to hear anti-graft commissioner, Dario Rama, announce over radio and TV that upon your instructions on Aug. 1, 2000, he will investigate me over baseless charges ignored even by your Excellency for more than a year now. It would have been so simple for your Excellency or the Executive Secretary to ask me to explain as member of your official family.

"Such courtesy was not extended. I take it as an expression of loss of confidence. As a point of honor then, I am constrained to resign from your Cabinet."

Affront

It appears that what stung and provoked Roco to quit was the disclosure of the complaint to the press without having been previously asked to explain. The press reports that the President had initiated an investigation aggravated the affront.

Rama told me he did not go out of his way to call a press conference to announce the referral of the complaint to his office. The press descended on him in waves during the day. He merely responded truthfully to the journalists' questions, and no one prompted him to go to the press. There is no evidence to conclude that he acted as a Palace "hit man."

Rama said complaints filed against Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit had similarly been referred to the PAGC to determine whether there was a prima facie case.

Those who had worked with him in the public service say he is "self-effacing and honest." Former Commission on Elections Chair Christian Monsod said Rama was "an efficiently honest, quiet and very independent" official. Rama was Comelec commissioner under Monsod.

Three reasons explain why there was no fuss over the complaints against Perez and Dayrit. First, Roco is a known aspirant for the presidency, and Perez and Dayrit are not. Second, there was a suspicious leak of the obviously routine referral of the complaint. Third, there was the Ibon survey.

Coincidence

First the leak. Rama said he was told that the union at the DepEd was responsible for the leak. Palace sources said a member of the Malacañang records section leaked it to radio reporters.

It is not clear why the Palace employee leaked the document and whether someone prompted the staff member. What is suspicious, however, is that there was a coincidence in the date of the referral with that of the release of the Ibon survey—Aug. 1.

As a matter of procedure, the PAGC will soon begin the probe in which Roco is given a chance to answer the charges.

I am certain Roco can defend himself. The record shows that of 110 complaints received by the PAGC, a hundred had been dismissed.

There is no reason to conclude the Palace did a hatchet job on Roco following the publication of the Ibon survey. Many officials I asked said the President was shocked by Roco's resignation. Some of Roco's Cabinet colleagues were happy with his performance. They said Roco was a "team player."

In his letter of resignation, Roco echoed this assessment when he said that since October 2001, the education department "has been considered the best performing government agency in survey after survey."

Cut down to size

The Ibon survey immediately fanned speculation that the referral of the complaint was leaked to cut Roco down to size as a threat to the President's reelection bid.

The fact is that Roco had been quiet for several months, and somewhat pushed to the sidelines. The perception was that he would content himself with being Ms Macapagal's running mate in 2004. The President does not agree with this assessment.

The Ibon survey itself was inconclusive. Besides, given the volatility of Philippine politics, it is too premature to say who is front-runner in the presidential race when official candidates are not yet identified.

The survey allows a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percent. With this margin of error, there's not much difference between the ratings of Roco, Estrada and the President. Their ratings fall within the margin.

Serious political analyst can see through these narrow differentials, which could not have panicked the President into reacting with a demolition job on Roco.

Roco reacted as a "point of honor." But it appears he overreacted on the basis of how the press presented the referral. The reports ignited a forest fire that spread quickly beyond control, pushing him and the President to irreversible positions from which they cannot turn back without losing face.

Their split, however, has put Roco back at the center of the presidential equation after he had been sliding into obscurity.

Whether there was a hatchet job or not, the axe fell on the already shaky structure of the President's People Power II coalition

Acsa's . . .

From page A1

the principal suspect.

On the same day, dissatisfied by San Juan's breezy assurance, she reported the matter to Landbank assistant vice president Carmencita Bayot. On Sunday, June 16, she told Bayot about other suspicious accounts she had discovered.

As a result of her exposé, the bank conducted an internal audit. On July 30, the bank formally filed charges against San Juan and two others. On Aug. 2, however, while in the middle of an interview with NBI agents at the agency's head office, Ramirez was suddenly called out.

Before she knew it, she was being presented by the President of the Philippines.

Since the presentation, life has been especially hard for the Ramirez couple.

While her older sister nearly had a heart attack, they had to leave their house in Antipolo City after suspicious-looking men showed up and asked questions about them.

The two, married for seven years, now live in different safehouses.

They also have had to send their two children—a 2-year-old boy and a year-old girl—to the provinces.

"When I think of them, I can't help but cry when I realize that they are not with us," Ramirez said.

Ramirez has worked continuously with Landbank for 13 years since joining it in February 1989 as a cash clerk.

She was promoted to teller, then verifier, and then finally to operations supervisor/cashier in September 1995.

Ramirez has also worked at the Landbank main offices and its branches in Antipolo, Tanay, Cainta, Taytay, and in Binangonan.

Since she joined the bank, she has never been the subject of any formal administrative complaint.

What has really endeared Ramirez to her co-workers, however, has been her Christian faith.

This is not the first time Ramirez's faith has been severely tested. Nine years ago, she had a terrifying run-in with a gang of bank robbers.

She was walking on Jhocson Street in Sampaloc, Manila, one afternoon in April 1993 when somebody pulled her by the hair from behind.

"I thought they were addicts. They had me blindfolded and pushed me inside a car. I just cried and cried," Ramirez said.

But it turned out that the men who abducted her were bank robbers. They wanted her to open the vault of a Landbank branch in Quezon City, where Acsa was working then.

The robbers had also kidnapped another Landbank employee whom they thought knew the vault's combination.

The criminals brought them to the Quezon City Memorial Circle, and there herded them inside an L-300 Mitsubishi van.

"I realized what they were after when I saw her. But we just kept mum when they started asking (about the vault's combination)," Ramirez said.

The robbers drove around and around the Circle while they questioned the two employees. Fortunately, Ramirez's co-worker did not know the combination for that day.

The two of them begged to be let go, since they did not know the right combination.

When that search proved futile, some of the robbers became furious and wanted the two employees "eliminated."

Cooler heads prevailed, however, and the two were released in one of those empty, grassy areas of Fairview, Quezon City.

From page A1

Aug. 14	NBI files charges vs. Ramirez for failing to report 11 transactions
Aug. 17	Ramirez lawyer tells PDI 11 transactions are from accounts Ramirez had already reported on Jun. 16. Money Laundering IRR also requires specific persons to report transactions; Ramirez is not one of them

SOURCE: PUBLISHED REPORTS; RAMIREZ AUG. 9 AFFIDAVIT; INTERVIEW WITH LAWYER VIRGINIA PINLAC

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Church warns pols on more aggressive birth control plan

From page A1

integrating. Relationships fall apart. Marriages split up. Families are torn apart," said Sin in a pre-recorded message.

Some 20,000 youths, who attended the weekend meeting, held prayer sessions, listened to inspirational talks on the family and heard Mass. They were also treated to musical presentations.

About 50 priests heard confession.

Sin said the Bigkis Youth Festival was a "good opportunity to remind you my dear young friends of the value of communion and unity."

"And this unity is primarily found in the family. Our families are God's gift to us."

Quevedo also said Philippine bishops expected Pope John Paul II to stay on despite his advanced years and frail health, and hoped to welcome him in Manila next year for the World Meeting of Families.

The 82-year-old Pontiff is expected to visit the country for the third time in over 20 years.

"I think this idea of the Pope retiring is like a desire of others, rather than a policy of the Church or the desire of the Holy Father," Quevedo said.

"He has, in fact, expressed the exact opposite, that he will serve till the end. Some people want him to resign or to retire. There is no age retirement for a Pope. It all depends on his pleasure," Quevedo added.

"We still hope that he comes by January 2003, and we hope that he will conserve his strength because his time is not unlimited. And, therefore, he wants to do as much work as he does as a universal pastor before his health fails completely."

At the Bigkis Youth Festival, delegates prayed for the health of the Pope, in the hope that he may soon be able to visit next year.

The prayer festival was the first of three planned public events in coming months to prepare for a possible papal visit in January.

The Vatican has said the Pontiff, who visited in 1981 and in 1995, wants to revisit the Philippines but the trip has not yet been confirmed.

"We hope to see him here again like seven years ago," said Rommel Tucusin, who wore a jacket to ward off a light morning drizzle.

"I hope his health progresses so his program for the youth will continue," he said.

Andy Juan, another participant, said a papal visit would help strengthen his country, which has been wracked by economic difficulties, political divisions and crime. ***With reports from Armand Nocum, AP and AFP***

PRESIDENT Macapagal and Bro. Mike Velarde stand as principal sponsors for 13 couples in El Shaddai's mass wedding at the Amvel Business Park in Parañaque City. The ceremony was officiated by Bishop Teodoro Bacani.

PCPO-MALACANANG PHOTO

GMA praises El Shaddai 'anointment'

From page A1

was their candidate when the prearranged code words "T'yak 'yun (That is for certain)" was used to refer to the former movie actor.

Till 4 a.m.

Ms Macapagal arrived at the celebration held at the Amvel Business Park in San Dionisio, Parañaque City, at around 12 midnight and stayed until 4 a.m., according to an official Malacañang statement.

The President said that doubts that surrounded the group during its early years were merely part of trials from God.

"The hope that Velarde has given the members of the El Shaddai Prayer Partners 18 years ago is not a false hope," Ms Macapagal said.

She also recalled a story in the Bible about a woman from the Gentiles who had a strong faith in God even though she was not considered part of God's "chosen ones."

"How much more the children of Yahweh El Shaddai?" the President said. "How much more the Philippines which used to be the only Catholic nation in Asia?"

"But now, there is East Timor. My brothers and sisters, the more we should hope for blessings of Yahweh El Shaddai," she also said.

The President was referring to the recent declaration of East Timor, which is predominantly Catholic, as a new nation.

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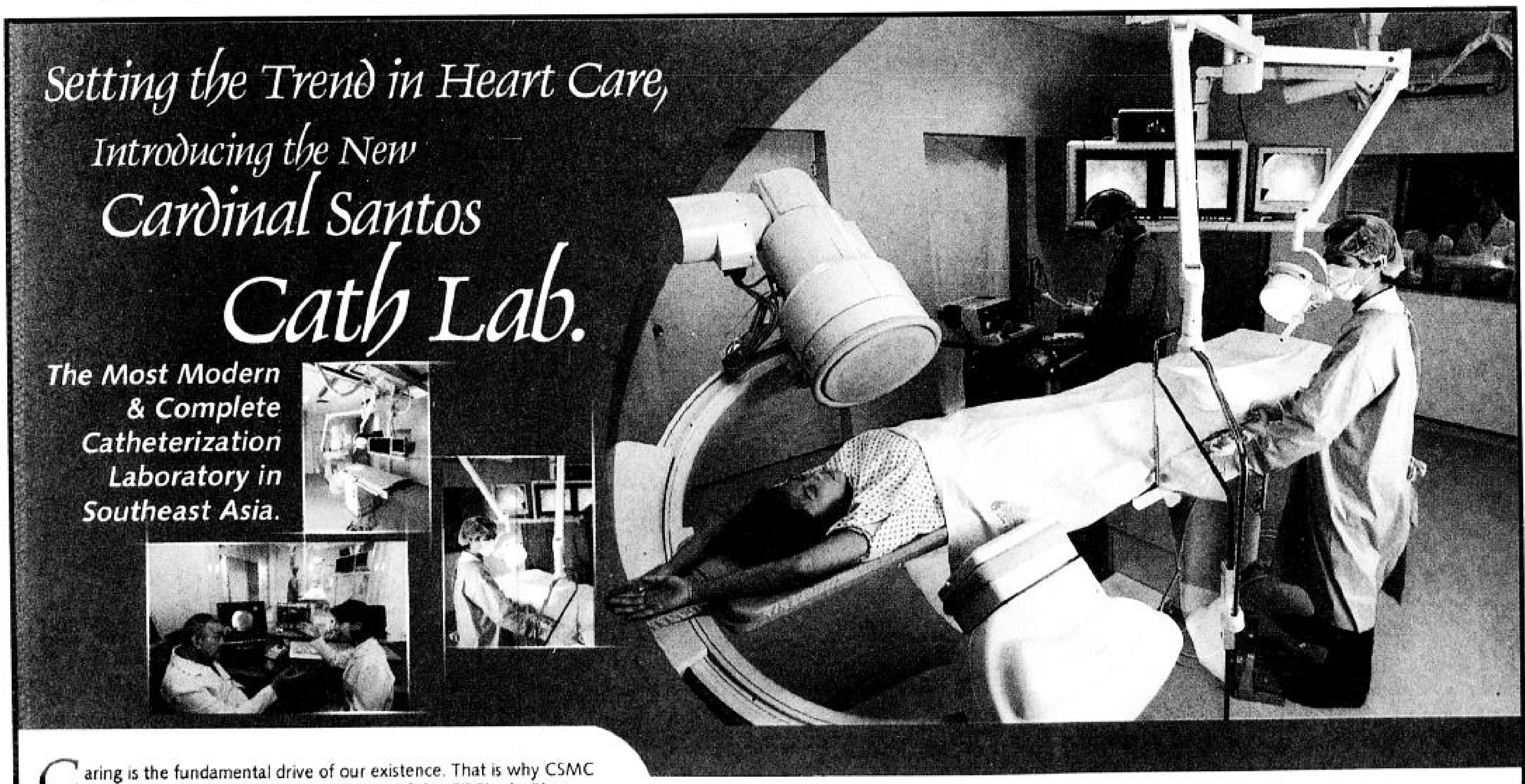
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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Miriam cagers blast Rizal Tech

MIRIAM College ripped Rizal Technological University, 60-48, yesterday to grab a temporary share of the lead in the 33rd WNCAA-adidas tournament at the St. Scholastica's College gym. The Golden Phoenix notched their third win in as many games to tie the defending champions College of Saint Benilde Blazers, who were still playing the University of the Assumption Blue Pelicans as of press time.

SMB ousts Coca-Cola, gains semis

By June Navarro

GAME TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)
7 p.m.—Selecta-RP vs Chinese-Taipei

SAN Miguel Beer outlasted Coca-Cola, 90-84, in overtime last night to advance to the semifinals of the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Terquinn Mott and Dorian Peña kept the Beermen on their toes in the extra period, employing a couple of defensive stops and draining several huge baskets that shoved them to a 10th straight semifinal appearance since the 1999 Commissioner's Cup.

Bouncing back from an 84-80 setback against the Tigers on Thursday, the Beermen will face early semifinalist Batang Red Bull in a best-of-five collision starting on Friday.

Mott imposed his beefy 6-foot-8 frame on the floor as he came up with six of the Beermen's 14 points in the extension.

His short jumper and Peña's point-blank shot with 42 ticks to go gave SMB an 89-80 margin, sealing the Beermen's 14th best-of-five semifinal stint overall.

Mott exploded with 34 points and 12 rebounds while Peña also turned in a double-double performance by scoring 19 points and grabbing 14 rebounds.

Ron Hale and Carlos Daniel also did a fine job but the Tigers obviously lacked the preparation needed for Daniel to blend perfectly with the rest of the team.

The 6-foot-6 Daniel suited up for the Tigers over the weekend and replaced Torraye Braggs, who went to the United States last Friday to treat a recurring hamstring injury.

Talk N Text also barged into the semifinals after thumping Sta. Lucia Realty, 80-70, in the second game.

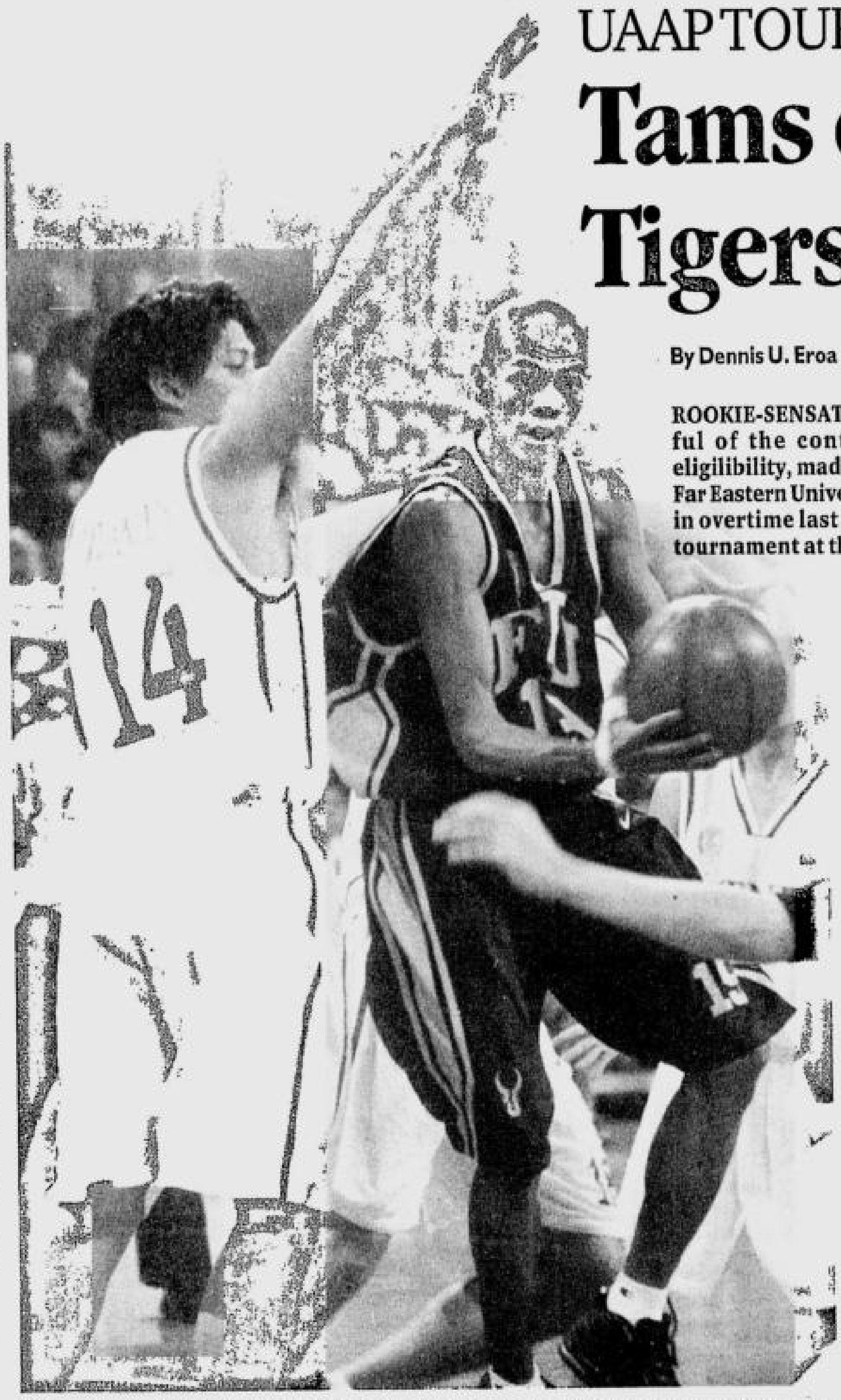
The Phone Pals will meet the winner between Alaska and Federal Express in a best-of-five showdown.

Scores:

SAN MIGUEL 90—Mott 34, Seals 19, Peña 19, Victoria 10, Lago 6, Mente 2, Belasco 0.

COCA-COLA 84—Hale 28, Daniel 23, Antonio 13, Abarrientos 9, Abuda 6, Morano 3, Juinio 2, Bolado 0, Avenido 0.

Quarters: 20-14, 37-35, 61-55, 76-all, 90-84.



FEU rookie Arwind Santos (right) attacks the basket against Ateneo slotman Enrico Villanueva. The Tamaraws won in overtime, 93-92.

JESS YUSON

UAAP TOURNEY

Tams edge Eagles; Tigers nip Bulldogs

By Dennis U. Eroa

ROOKIE-SENSATION Arwind Santos, unmindful of the controversy surrounding his eligibility, made the all-important baskets as Far Eastern University outlasted Ateneo, 93-92, in overtime last night in the UAAP basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	8	0
UE	6	2
UST	5	3
Ateneo	4	4
UP	3	5
Adamson	3	5
FEU	3	5
NU	0	8

The 6-foot-4 Pampangueño looked every inch a winner, burying a buzzer-beating triple which forced overtime, 81-81, and then sustaining his explosive show till the end of the suspenseful game.

Earlier, Christian Luanzon's three-point play lifted University of Santo Tomas to a pulsating 82-79 win over National University, as the Tigers firmed up their hold of third place with a 5-3 record.

Ateneo dropped to 4-4 as the race for the Final Four slots tightened.

Playing with confidence after his eligibility was confirmed by the board, Santos finished with 19 points aside from engaging returning Rich Alvarez into a wonderful match-up.

Alvarez, back after a controversial suspension, escaped with 14 points. After Santos made the first basket in overtime, Santos gave the Tamaraws an 83-81 lead but the Eagles surged ahead on baskets by Jec Chia and Enrico Villanueva, 87-83.

FEU exploited Ateneo's defensive lapses to drop an 8-0 bomb, 91-87. Villanueva made it 89-91 and Alvarez's freethrows tied the count, 91-91, 33 seconds left.

As followers of both camps drowned the RMC with cheers and jeers, veteran Rhagnee Sinco scored underneath and Ateneo had a golden chance to level the count when Chia was fouled and given two free throws.

The blue-and-white gallery went delirious when Chia sank the first, but turned silent when the former Intramurals hero bungled the second, leading to a jumpball between Villanueva and Santos, three ticks left.

Chia got the ball then launched a desperation shot which was way below the target as the Tamaraws and their supporters shouted for joy.

The win was sweet revenge for coach Koy Banal, whose charges bowed to the Eagles also by overtime, 73-68, last July 25 at the same venue.

First game:

UST 82—Espiritu 21, Hubalde 18, Baguio 16, Gelig 10, Manansala 9, Luanzon 3, Vizcarra 3, Nanninga 2, De Guzman 1, Del Rosario 0.

NU 79—Mendoza 19, Grijaldo 13, Napa 12, Urbano 11, Baguion 9, Cajayon 6, Santico 5, Tolentino 4, Balijon 0, Miclat 0.

Quarters: 25-16, 39-42, 64-57, 82-79

Second game:

FEU 93—Santos 19, Rizada 14, Jones 14, Sinco 11, Miranda 10, Isip 8, Cutler 7, Yabut 4, Garcia 2, Catli 0.

ATENEO 92—Villanueva 19, Fonacier 15, Alvarez 14, Cruz 11, Gonzales 11, Chia 8, Tenorio 7, Tadeo 4, Intal 2.

Quarters: 16-14, 39-38, 63-54, 82-79.

Letran meets SSC today; San Beda tackles J. Rizal

By June Navarro

Standings	W	L
CSB	9	1
SSC	7	2
PCU	7	3
JRU	5	4
Letran	4	5
Mapua	4	6
San Beda	1	8
UPHR	1	9

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—Letran vs SSC (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—San Beda vs JRU (jrs/srs)

LETRAN College, buoyed by its recent win over Philippine Christian University, faces long-time rival San Sebastian College today in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

"They can be beaten," said Letran coach Louie Alas of the defending champion Stags after the Knights turned back the Dolphins in overtime, 83-73, for their fourth victory in nine games last week.

"We we're so predictable the first time we met they easily took the game from us. This time, we're going to introduce innovations on offense," he added.

During their first-round meeting, the Stags prevailed after the Knights crumbled down the stretch.

Although it promises to be another tough outing for the Knights, Alas said his wards knew the situation pretty well and would not allow another beating to take place.

Running fifth in the eight-team tourney, the Knights should win over their last five opponents to ensure a worry-free trip to the Final Four.

There are still three slots left in the Final Four with College of St. Benilde already assured of a berth.

A victory for the Stags, who ripped the UPHR Altas, 84-74, last week, will move them closer to a Final Four stint.

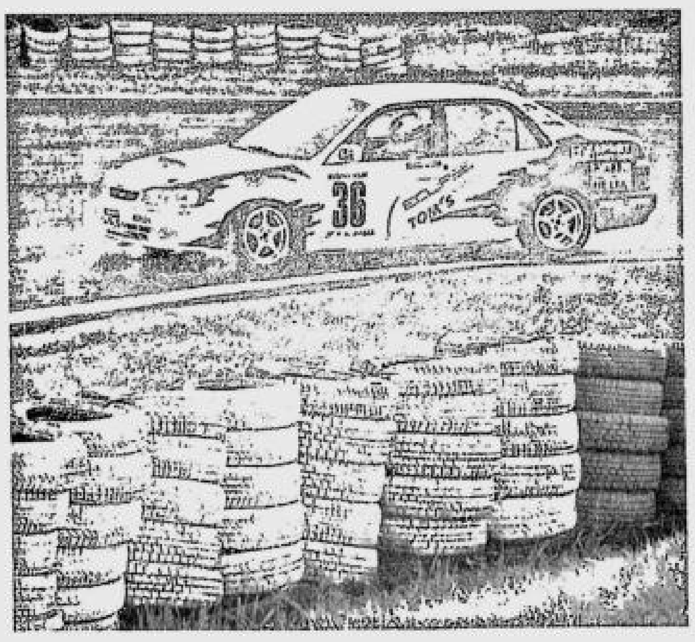
Jose Rizal University attempts to recover from an 81-74 thrashing it got from Mapua when the Heavy Bombers clash against host San Beda College in the other varsity game.

Forming the Bombers' fearsome quintet are Marco Polo Fajardo, Joel Villarin, McDonald Santos, Joel Finuliar and rookie Edward Atunaga, a bunch of overachievers who proved instrumental in their past games.

'Triple X' showing tonight

THE PHILIPPINE Sportswriters Association (PSA), led by its president Roberto D. Cuevas, has already labeled the advance screening of Columbia Pictures' Triple X (xXx) a huge success following the overwhelming response from sponsors and a surge in ticket buyers who will join an expected SRO crowd tonight at the Robinson's Place Cinema 1.

"We are very happy with the encouraging response we got from our sponsors. This only proves that the sponsors are really partners in sports," said Cuevas, sports editor of the Manila Standard.



TOURING CAR

Fujitsu-Tom's Shell Racing's Jojo Silverio (No. 36) negotiates a curve en route to ruling Round 6 of the Philippine National Touring Car Championship recently at the Batangas Racing Circuit. The event was sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines (formerly PMA) and sponsored by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association Board of Governors, Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Motors Phil., MOF Shipping, Norkis-Yamaha, Marlboro, Casino Filipino, Kilton Motors Corp. and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through General Ver Angelo.

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PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Leonard defies winds, leads by 3 shots

CHASKA, Minnesota — Justin Leonard has built a reputation of gritty comebacks in major tournaments under the toughest conditions. The PGA Championship will present a different challenge.

LEONARD

A five-stroke rally on the final day won him the '97 British Open at Royal Troon. He made up the same deficit to capture The Players Championship a year later. In the Ryder Cup, he came from four holes down with seven to play to deliver victory for the Americans.

On Saturday, over the final six holes in vicious winds at Hazeltine, Leonard turned a one-stroke deficit into a surprising three-stroke advantage.

"I feel like I've got to play a great round of golf," Leonard said after a 3-under 69 in which he didn't miss a shot over the final four holes. "It takes that to win a major championship."

This time, he'll need it to protect a lead - three strokes over the happy-go-lucky Rich Beem, four over high-fivin' Fred Funk, and five shots over Tiger Woods, who has never won a major from behind.

Having won seven of the last 12 majors, however, Woods might be the biggest threat.

Leonard was the only player to break 70 on a day in which the gusts reached 38 mph (61 kph), a mere zephyr in Texas.

He was at 9-under 207, the first time Leonard has been a 54-hole leader in a major since he and Davis Love III were tied after three rounds in the 1997 PGA Championship at Winged Foot. Leonard won his only major earlier that year at Royal Troon.

He hasn't been a factor in the majors since then, but he's in perfect position now.

The last five players who have been in the lead going into the final round of the PGA Championship wound up with the Wanamaker Trophy.

Of greater concern was Woods.

Is five strokes a safe margin?

"I'd like to say that, but I came back from five shots to win a major championship," Leonard said. "It's safe depending on how I play. But if I struggle or stumble, guys are going to feel like they've got a chance."

Leonard will be paired with Beem, who is playing only his fourth major.

Funk (73) and Woods (72) will be in front of them.

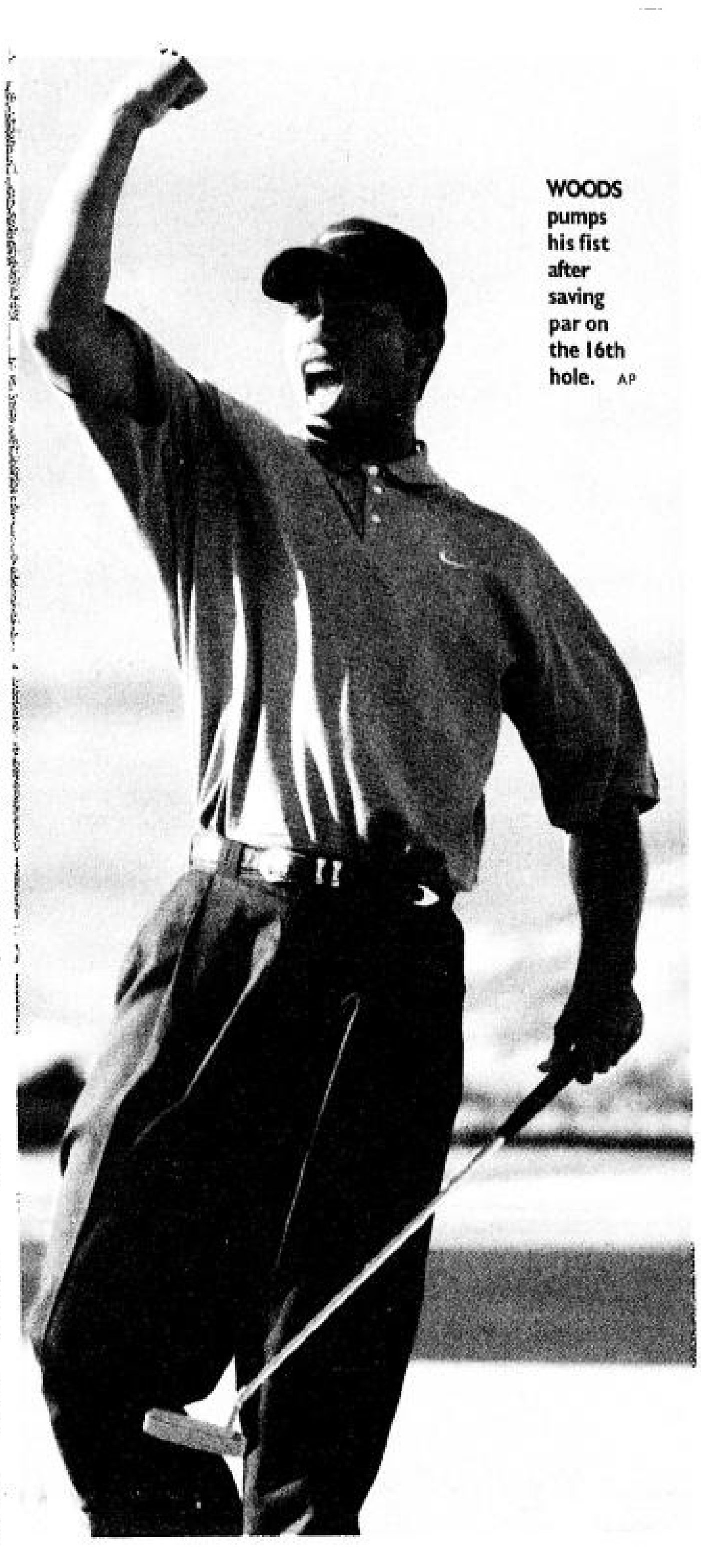
At stake for Woods is a chance to become the first player to win all three U.S. majors in the same year - the American Slam. Woods already won the Masters and U.S. Open.

"All I have to do is play well, make putts," Woods said. "It's really no big secret. There's only a few guys ahead of me."

The guy who holds all the cards is Leonard.

While the 30-year-old Texan has only seven PGA Tour victories, they include a couple of big ones. Along with his victory in the '97 British Open, he won The Players Championship a year later against the strongest field in golf.

AP



WOODS pumps his fist after saving par on the 16th hole. AP

Matthew paces Canada tilt

VAUDREUIL-DORION, Quebec—Triona Matthew of Scotland, a model of consistency, shot her third straight 2-under 70 to take the third-round lead Saturday in the Canadian Women's Open.

Matthew holed birdie putts of 25 feet and 12 feet on her final two holes to move to 6-under 210, one stroke ahead of Meg Mallon, who had a solid 69. Only a bogey at 18 marred the round as Mallon mastered the difficult Summerlea Golf and Country Club course southwest of Montreal.

Another two shots back were Gloria Park and Se Ri Pak of South Korea, who were tied with Australian Michelle Ellis at 3-under 213. Charlotta Sorenstam of Sweden and Karrie Webb of Australia were at 214, one shot ahead of Michele Redman. First-round leader Kate Golden was one of three players at even-par 216.

AP

Delasin shares 29th

DOROTHY Delasin dropped nine rungs lower to a share of 29th after a three-over-par 75 on Saturday in the $1.2 million Bank of Montreal Canadian Women's Open at the Summerlea Golf and Country Club.

Delasin, whose 70 in the first round put her in the Top 10, had a 223 aggregate, far behind Catriona Matthew whose 70-210 gave her a one-stroke lead over Meg Mallon (69-211).

Jenny Rosales, meanwhile, continued to improve with her 73-225 boosting her ranking to 56th from 67th.

Jong Arcano

Lucida wins US Amateur

SCARBOROUGH, New York—Becky Lucida won the U.S. Women's Amateur, building a six-hole lead in the morning round and holding off Brandi Jackson 3 and 2 in the 36-hole final.

Lucida, the Poway, California, player who will be a senior at Southern California, never trailed in the 121 holes she played in six matches on the Sleepy Hollow Country Club course. She won the Robert Cox Cup and earned a spot in the 2003 U.S. Women's Open.

"It's pretty surreal right now," Lucidi said Saturday. "This trophy looks good to me, but nothing has sunk in yet. My nerves were there all week, but I was more intense today.

"I've never won any college events, but there will be an obscene amount of confidence when I return to school. I'm already I'm thinking about next year's U.S. Women's Open."

Jackson, the Belton, South Carolina, player who will be a senior at Furman, was 11 over in the morning round.

"I wanted to crawl into a hole. I didn't even want to know what I shot," Jackson said.

AP

RP Int'l Golf Show set Oct. 4-6

AS the game of golf continues to grow in popularity despite unpredictable economic trends, local traders will put on display the latest equipment, apparel, technology and many more in the seventh edition of the Philippine International Golf Show.

Though the exhibition date is still more than a month away on Oct. 4-6, companies distributing major brands as well as suppliers are already busy mapping out their plans for a golf festival of sort at the Hall 2 of the SM MegaMall.

There will be no less than 100 booths showcasing various products ranging from from equipment, travel packages, golf shares, publications, special services and many more.

In keeping with tradition, the officialdom of the Golf Distributors Association of the Philippines (GDAP) which organizes the annual show is offering seminars on special topics.

GDAP president Raymund Atendido announced that this year's Show marks the entry of two new partnerships the GDAP forged to strengthen the gains of the six previous shows.

Fairs&More is coming in as the new event manager. The company headed by Henry J. Schumached as its president and CEO has an extensive background in putting up trade shows with a competent local workforce.

The Philippine Turfgrass Association was also tasked to handle the seminars on special topics crucial to the industry.

Among the early sponsors are Planet Sports, Casino Filipino, Asia Brewery, Gold's Gym, Bravo Restaurant and Lexber Time Share Co.

"We believe that these changes will give us the chance to put more focus in the more crucial aspect of marketing and promoting the Golf Show properly," said Atendido.

Atendido said that with Gerald Raymundo being appointed this year's exhibit chair and Lovell Gopez assigned to handle the pre-show tournament on Sept. 26, he feels that the right organizational setup is in place.

For inquiries, contact Fairs&More at 845-1324 or 759-6680 and fax nos. 845-1395 or 759-6690 or visit the official website of the event at www.philippineinternationalgolfshow.com.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

MOTOR SPORTS: Race Day - Hungarian Grand Prix at 8:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

F1 - Hungarian Grand Prix at 9:15 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Chequered Flag at 11:30 a.m. on Star Sports

TENNIS: ATP Legg Mason Tennis Classic Finals at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: Senior PGA Ford Senior Players Championship, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r – 10 p.m.) on Star Sports

BASEBALL: Sunday Night Baseball at 8 a.m. (r – 5 p.m.) on ESPN

SOCCER: English Premier Football League at 12 noon, 2 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN and tomorrow at 2:55 a.m. on Star Sports

EPL Highlights at 8:30 p.m. on ESPN

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Ali cheers as daughter captures first world crown

LAS VEGAS —With father Muhammad Ali cheering her on, Laila Ali won her first world boxing title Saturday night.

Ali stopped Suzy Taylor at 1:11 of the second round to win the IBA super middleweight championship.

"I was just getting started," said Ali, 12-0 with nine knockouts. "I was just getting warmed up."

After Ali backed Taylor into the corner with lefts and rights to the head, Taylor grabbed and clinched. Referee Kenny Bayless separated the fighters, and Taylor (10-7-1) slumped in the corner, prompting Bayless to stop the fight.

Muhammad Ali received a standing ovation when he entered the arena during the fifth round of the co-main event between Armenia's William Abelyan and Panama's Orlando Soto.

Abelyan stopped Soto in the 10th round to win the NABO featherweight title. Abelyan improved to 20-4-1

AP

LAILA Ali (left) poses with her father, boxing great Muhammad Ali, after beating Suzy Taylor. AP

Orchard bets, Northwoods down rivals

Team standings:

Group I: Mimosa 5, Sta. Elena 4, Orchard 4, Alabang 3, Mt. Malarayat 2

Group II: Royal Northwoods 5, Valley 4, Eastridge 2, Manila Southwoods 2, Wack Wack 2

Group III: Forest Hills 6, Manila Golf 4, Tagaytay Highlands 3, Canlubang 2, Riviera 2

ROYAL Northwoods is fast turning out to be the surprise package of the Federation Golf League.

Hardly given a chance in the pre-season previews, Northwoods claimed another upset victory with the Bulakenos plastering Valley, 4-0, over the weekend to snatch the solo lead in Group II.

Victories by Gov. Tommy Joson-Rodel Mangulabnan, August Cruz-Boy Unson, Danny Daliha-Sonny Donato and Omar Dungca-Lito Cruz made Northwoods only the second squad to score a 4-0 romp so far.

Gettting two points plus the point incentive the league gives to a team that gets 3.5 or more per match, Northwoods raised its total to 6.5 points as it braced up for a big showdown with struggling Wack Wack this Wednesday.

In another shocking rout, Orchard yielded only half a point to Mt. Malarayat and jumped to a share of third with Alabang in Group I.

Alabang outsteadied Mimosa, 2.5-1.5, behind the victories of Caloy Coscolluela-Jun Galindez (scramble) and Seve Roxas Chua-Buddy Velayo and a draw earned by Francis Jimenez-Pete Cervantes (aggregate).

It was another exciting weekend when Wack Wack boosted its flickering hopes with a 3-1 decision over Southwoods, 3-1. Not even the presence of reigning Philippine amateur champ Jerome Delariarte could avert the Southwoods loss as he and partner Raffy Campos lost their scramble battle to Kit Lopez and Rep. Jack Duavit.

Winning for Orchard were Mel Malabanan-Timmy Owyong (aggregate), Andy Vasquez-Quino Baterna (high-low) and Louie Garcia-Michael Pizarro (best ball) winning their matches.

Marlon Dizon-Michael Manotoc (best ball) and Elphege Wong-John Gobing (high-low) gave Wack Wack its other points.

In other matches, Forest Hills and Tagaytay Higlands turned back their respective opponents. Forest Hills survived Manila Golf, 2.5-1.5, to keep the Group III lead with 6 points while Highlands blasted Canlubang, 3-1, to gain third in the same group with 3 points.

Jong Arcano

Couple rules Davao triathlon

DAVAO CITY—Davao City's Johnny Yanong and wife May took the top honors in the third leg of the Enervon National Age-Group Triathlon series Mindanao Circuit here yesterday.

Yanong finished first overall in a field of 52 participants (new Davao record) with a time of 1 hour, 3 minutes and 12 seconds to claim the 20-24 age title, beating fellow Davaoeño Joel Custodio who came in at 1:05:19 to win the 25-29 class.

At third was former RP triathlon team member Sean Lim (Pasay City) with 1:06:09 (second in 20-24).

In the distaff side of the event sponsored by Speedo, Enervon, Fil-Chinese Firefighters Foundation, Traffic Bureau and the Philippine Sports Commission, May Ferrer-Yanong ended a 20-month title drought by claiming the female 20-24 crown in 1:08:58. Current series leader Ripples Rafanan came in second at 1:10:52 (also second in female 20-24), while Louie Villacin finished third (1:16:55).

The Yanongs, who married in March 2001, are former members of the RP Team and are now bent on coming back. They each earned 100 points for the overall series count.

Gracing the awarding ceremony were Davao City vice mayor Louie Bunguyan, councilor Nilo Abellera, city sports coordinator Bobby Yanong, Speedo store manager Chiara Juan, Enervon event supervisor Irene Abuel, Enervon brand manager Dennis Dizon and Enervon Mindanao supervisor Rufy Gapuz.

Other winners are Dumaguete City's Ian Gerard Rusiana (15-19), Magdalina Yanong (female 25-29), Cebu City's Ian Gonzaga (30-34), Ovette Quirequire (35-39), Felix Motilla (40-44), native Ramon Espinosa (45-49) and Dumaguete City's Pio Salvador (50-54).

G. Ballet, Mica's Magic sparkle

SECOND choice Golden Ballet collared What A Spell in the last few strides to win the Lakambini Stakes race by a length yesterday at the Santa Ana Park.

Golden Ballet, handled by Jonathan Hernandez, pocketed P450,000, while What A Spell, ridden by Fernando Raquel Jr., got P168,750.

Longshot Dandansoy finished third followed by favorite Magical Mark, Velocity and Halo Effect.

Meanwhile, Manolito Daquis drove Sandy Javier's Mica's Magic to a one length victory over Hermie Esguerra's Kay Gee Em Ey in the Hopeful Stakes. The win was worth P150,000.

Capriati to tackle M'resmo

MONTREAL —Jennifer Capriati reached the final of the Rogers AT&T Cup when Jelena Dokic retired because of a knee injury while trailing in the second set.

Capriati was ahead 7-6 (5), 4-0 when Dokic told the chair umpire Saturday that she couldn't continue in the hard-court tuneup for the U.S. Open, which starts Aug. 26.

"I was on a roll and it was almost at the end when she retired," Capriati said. "It was important to get that first set in. It was intense. That was the match, right there."

The second-seeded Capriati will face seventh-seeded Amelie Mauresmo of France, a 6-2, 7-6 (3) winner over eighth-seeded Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia.

Capriati won the tournament at 15 in 1991, and was the runner-up last year in Toronto.

"It would mean a lot to win here. Maybe not as much as coming back to win a Grand Slam title, but it's up there," Capriati said. "I've always played well here. I have a great opportunity and, going into the U.S. Open, it would mean a lot for my confidence." **AP**

Blake upsets Agassi

BLAKE reaches out for a backhand return Agassi. Blake won, 6-3, 6-4, to enter the final. AP

WASHINGTON—James Blake overpowered top-seeded Andre Agassi, 6-3, 6-4, to reach the final of the Legg Mason Tennis Classic.

"I had the fight, I just didn't have the goods," Agassi, a five-time winner in the tournament, said Saturday. "He took it to me."

Blake, seeded sixth, will play 14th-seeded Paradorn Srichaphan, who beat fifth-seeded Marcelo Rios, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2, in the other semifinal.

One night after Agassi came back from a set down to beat Thomas Enqvist, Blake found himself serving to close out the match at 5-2.

"That 5-2 changeover was the longest changeover of my life," said Blake, winless in two finals this year. "I did start thinking that Andre Agassi was on the other side of the net."

Agassi broke Blake's serve to get to 5-3, but Blake held his serve and took the match with a forehand winner, something Enqvist failed to do the night before.

"When I left here (last night) Thomas was up a set and a break," Blake said. "As soon as I got back from dinner I got a phone call that said I was playing Agassi. That's all I wanted to know, I didn't want to know exactly what happened.

"That's always a possibility with him if you let him get a second life. There's that possibility of him tearing through somebody and luckily I didn't let him do that tonight."

Blake broke Agassi in the second game of the match on his way to a 3-0 lead. From that point, Blake hit winner after winner - 25 in all—to overpower Agassi from the baseline.

Srichaphan, who upset Agassi in the second round at Wimbledon this year, made it a day of upsets.

Srichaphan, who had 18 unforced errors in the first set, broke Rios twice in the second and three times in the third to reach his first final in the United States.

Meanwhile, in Indianapolis, Britain's Greg Rusedski knocked off another top player in the RCA Championships on Saturday, reaching the final with a, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, victory over third-seeded Tommy Haas.

Rusedski, seeded 14th, will face unseeded Felix Mantilla of Spain, a 6-4, 1-6, 6-4 winner over ninth-seeded Rainer Schuettler of Germany in the night semifinal. **AP**

Macalino pockets 14-under title

BAGUIO—Daniel Macalino nipped fancied Andrew Tangalin, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4, to bag his first boys' 14-under division title at the close of the adidas Tennis Challenge 2002 here at the Burnham Park claycourts over the weekend.

Macalino shared the limelight with double titlist Akio Sy; Jandrick de Castro in the boys' 16-under class; Jimmy Tangalin in the junior men's 21-under bracket; and Aileen Tereble in the girls' 12-under event in the Adidas netfest organized by CTW and supported by Milo and Sports Kids.

Sy demolished Pocholo Macalino, 6-0, 6-1, in the unisex 10-under and Joselito Cortez, 6-2, 6-1, in the boys' 12-under; De Castro stopped Daniel, 6-1, 6-1; Jimmy edged De Castro, 6-1, 2-6, 7-5; and Tereble whipped Rhea Fontanilla 6-0, 6-2.

Club officers engineer Richard Solang and Bob Pascual witnessed the adidas Tennis Challenge together with Philta RVP-CAR Col. Demi Andrada.

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RACE WINNER
Businessman Marlon Cunanan (left) receives a trophy from sexy starlet Nina Lopez after his horse Shining Pyramid won the Cool Star Stakes race recently at the San Lazaro Hippodrome. Cunanan's 2-year-old filly, ridden by Jeffrey Ladiana, beat five other rivals to win the first leg of the Juvenile Fillies Stakes. Also shown (from left) are Philracom Chair Andrew Sanchez and commissioner Jimmy Dilag.

4 share Pasay derby honors

FOUR tough entries emerged as co-champions in the highly successful "Fastest Win 3-Cock Derby" Friday night at the Pasay City cockpit.

The derby was supported by Sagupaan Super Feeds of *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio and Casino Filipino-Parañaque.

The winners were engineer Inger Valdez (Exnider), PR man Ferdie Ramos (Erap Pa Rin), Eliseo Jimenez (Happy B-day RV) and R. Villarubio (RV Riders).

Three-entries—Realistic of veteran breeder Eddie Araneta, RV Riders of Villarubio and Erap Pa Rin of Ramos—tied for the Fastest Win award after posting identical 18 seconds each in their first fights.

Meanwhile, PCC manager Eric dela Rosa announced yesterday that the Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA) grand 4-stag derby will be held on Sept. 27. This will be the first in a series of derbies.

Twenty-seven PCCA members attended the group's general assembly meeting last Saturday at the Jade Hotel along Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750.

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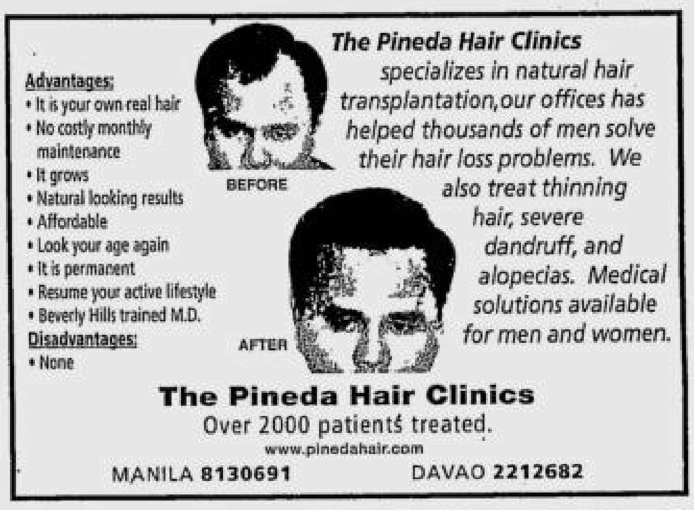
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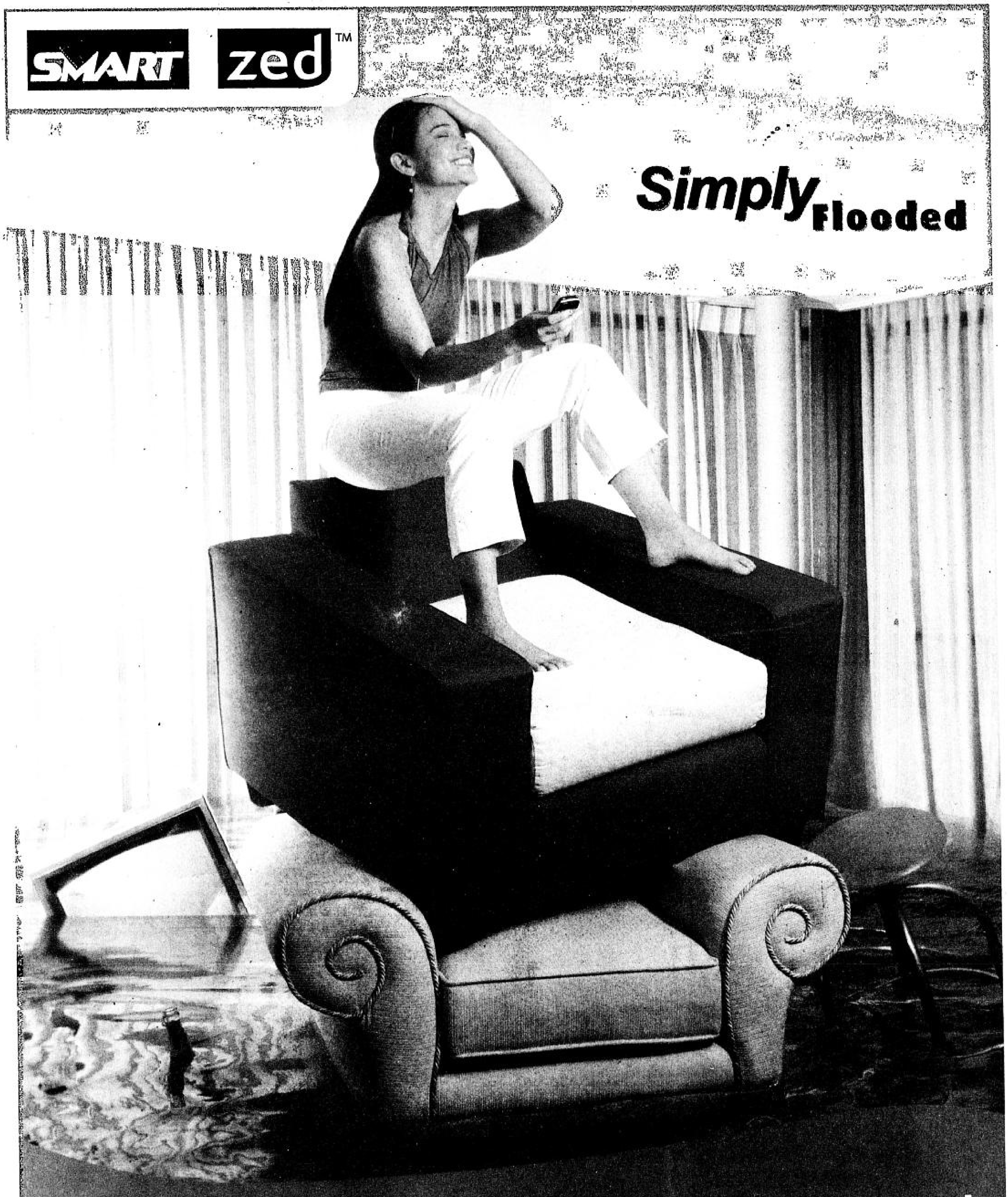

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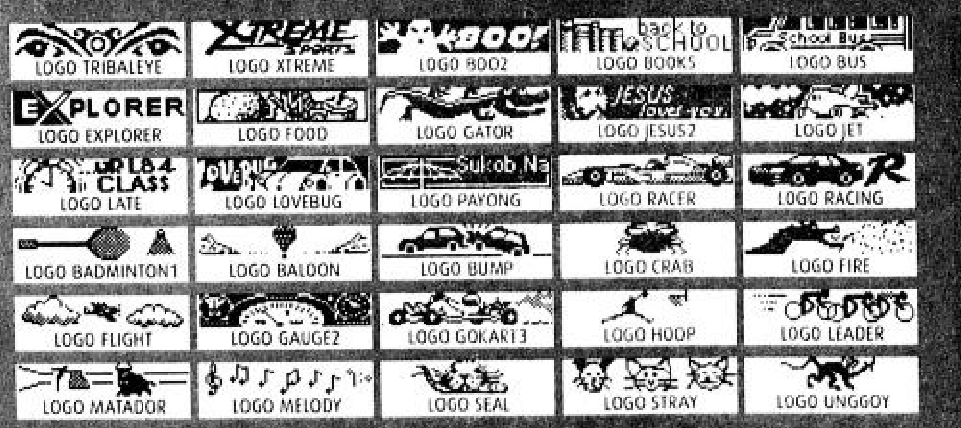

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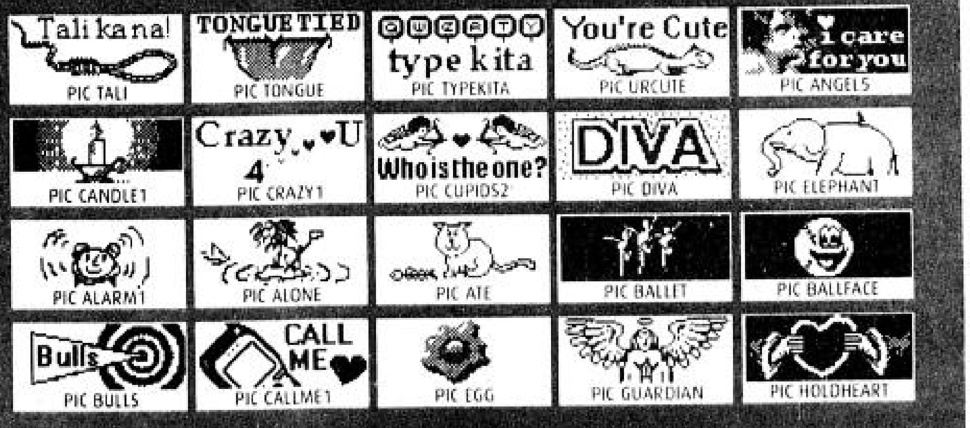

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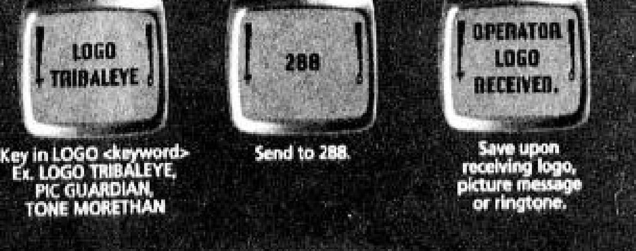

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Editor **Louie C. Camino**

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12 minors still on Death Row

By Christian V. Esguerra
and Rocky Nazareno

TWELVE minors are still languishing on Death Row despite a Supreme Court resolution ordering their transfer to the medium security compound of the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) in Muntinlupa.

Ricardo Macala, director of the Bureau of Corrections, yesterday said NBP officials are ready for the transfer but they have not received a copy of the Supreme Court order.

"How can we act if we haven't received the order from the office of the court administrator?" Macala asked in a telephone interview.

Last Aug. 1, the Supreme Court ordered justice and prison officials to move the young offenders from Death Row, saying they should not be treated as hardened criminals.

The high court is still reviewing the cases of the young offenders who supposedly committed their crimes when they were still minors.

12 minors/ p. A26

■ Witness describes Go killer /A26

■ Parsons suspects 'powerful force' /A26

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Witness saw Chika Go gunman, say probers

By Jerome Aning

A WITNESS in the killing of former Manila councilor Chika Go has surfaced and provided police with a description of the killer, according to investigators.

Western Police District investigator SP04 Alfredo Salazar on Friday said the witness was in the area when Go was shot last Aug. 10.

Based on the witness' description, a sketch of the suspect was released on Friday. It showed a male suspect between 25 and 20 years old, 5-foot-2 to 5-foot-3 tall, weighing between 120 and 130 pounds, and with medium build. The suspect has a thin moustache and freckles.

Citing security reasons, Salazar refused to divulge the identity, gender or occupation of the witness.

"All we can say is that the witness was in the area at the time of the shooting," he told reporters.

"We have to be careful in giving the identity of the witness, who is very afraid that the mastermind of the killing might locate him or her," he added.

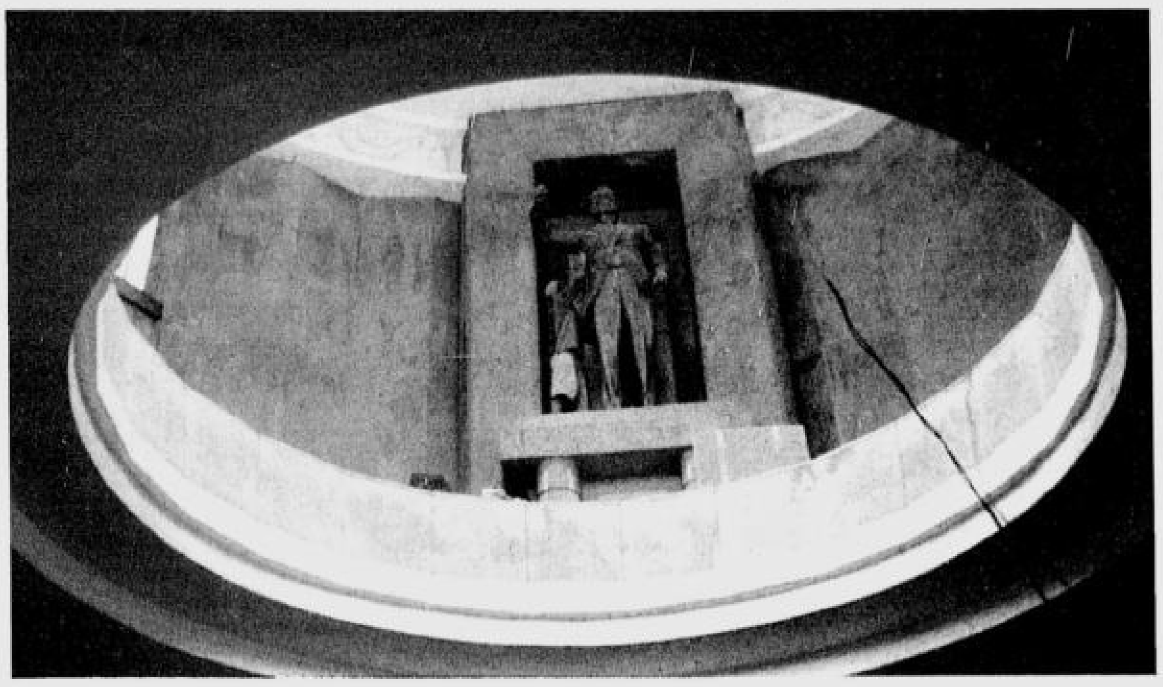
The WPD has formed Task Force Chika Go, headed by deputy district director for operations Senior Supt. Rafael Corpuz, to solve Go's killing.

But the task force has yet to announce any development with regards to the motive and the mastermind.

Go, 47, a businessman, was on board his Mitsubishi Pajero, which was stalled in traffic near his home on Reina Regente Street in Binondo, Manila, when a gunman shot him five times.

The suspect and a lookout escaped on board a motorcycle, police said.

A member of Lakas-NUCD, Go represented Manila's third district from 1992 to 1995. He failed to get reelected in 1998 and again in 2001.



FATHER'S DAY
Workers spruce up the monument of Manuel L. Quezon at the memorial circle bearing his name in Quezon City, in preparation for the statesman's 124th birthday today. Quezon, the first president of the Philippine Commonwealth, is also known as the Father of the National Language.
JOAN BONDOC

Parsons suspects 'powerful force'

By Nelson F. Flores

PARSONS

ACTOR Sonny Parsons said a powerful political force is behind the flawed filing of criminal charges against Joram Gacete, the suspect he had shot and wounded during a robbery in his Marikina home last July 18.

But Parsons refused to elaborate even as he said that he could not think of any other reason why Supt. Cripriano Querol, former Marikina City police chief, bungled the filing of criminal charges against Gaceta.

"Querol is an experienced police officer who knew his job and could not just commit an error as elementary as filing the right case," Parson said. "Yet, despite his vast experience he suspiciously bungled the filing of the charges."

He said this led to Gaceta's release and the death that Parsons and the members of his family have been receiving.

Parsons, a member of the '70s novelty singing group Hagibis and a former Marikina councilor, noted that Querol had filed against Gaceta the comparatively light and bailable charge of robbery in band when he should have filed the graver and nonbailable charges of illegal possession of firearms, violation of the Commission on Elections gun ban and attempted homicide.

He stressed that Gaceta was found with an unlicensed .357 magnum revolver when he was brought to the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center for a gunshot wound in the abdomen after the attack on the Parsons house.

He said this was the same gun that Gaceta had pointed at his head, but which had jammed.

"Now that Gaceta is free, where on earth would the police find him," Parsons asked. "He would surely jump bail."

Parsons, Jose Nabiola in real life, is an ally of former Rep. Romeo Candazo who is supposedly a political opponent of then city mayor Bayani Fernando, now Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair, and his wife Marikina City Mayor Maria Lourdes Carlos-Fernando.

On July 18, six armed men had barged into Parsons' house and robbed him of P133,000 cash and other belongings.

Parsons managed to chase the robbers and engaged them in a shootout, killing Rodgin Baguinat and Joemar Mercado, and wounding Gaceta.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, August 19, 2002
20th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ezk 24:15-24
Gospel: Mt 19:16-22

A young man approached Jesus and asked, "Master, what good work must I do to receive eternal life?" Jesus answered, "Why do you ask me about what is good? Only one is Good. If you want to enter eternal life, keep the commandments." The young man said, "Which commandments?" Jesus replied, "Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself."

The young man said to him, "I have kept all these commandments, what is still lacking?" Jesus answered, "If you wish to be perfect, go and sell all that you possess and give the money to the poor and you will become the owner of a treasure in heaven. Then come back and follow me."

On hearing this answer, the young man went away sad for he was a man of great wealth.

Commentary

In a materialistic and capitalistic world that seeks to find one's worth only in having and accumulating, today's Gospel will necessarily be at odds. But the Word must be proclaimed. Living in a country and a vast continent where the majority of the people are poor, discipleship necessarily means a just re-distribution of the goods of this world. The churches cannot be true to their purpose if they remain islets of affluence in the immense ocean of impoverishment and injustice. Together with other religious traditions, we are called to build a new and good humanity, based on equitable distribution of the goods of life and genuine solidarity with the poor.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE: SUMMARY PROCEDURE)-**Action for unlawful detainer**-An action for unlawful detainer may be filed when possession by a landlord, vendor, vendee or other person against whom the possession of any land or building is unlawfully withheld, after the expiration or termination of the right to hold possession, by virtue of a contract, express or implied. Proceedings in forcible entry and detainer are wholly summary in nature. The fact of lease and the expiration of its terms are the only elements of this kind of action. The question of ownership is unessential and should be raised by the defendant in an appropriate action. Any controversy over ownership rights could and, should be settled after the party who had the prior, peaceful and actual possession is returned to the property. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Pardo, First Division, Eastern Shipping Lines, Inc. v. Court of Appeals, G. R. No. 136080, January 18, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

RP team and the MBA: Two to the defense

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

HERE'S good news for members of the Philippine National basketball team to the Busan Asian Games. There's one kind-hearted fellow who believes the team is not deficient.

Listen: "The RP team to the Asiad will be ready come tournament time. It will prove armchair experts wrong."

That's Perry Ronquillo, a very knowledgeable basketball man, speaking.

As coach of the Shell squad in the PBA, he saw how the RP team was rudely expelled from the current PBA Commissioner's Cup.

Instead of grieving, Ronquillo stunned columnist Tito Talao when he told him the team that was shamed and booted out of the on-going PBA series was not exactly the team that will represent the Philippines in the Asian Games next month.

"The psyche and mentality (of the team) will definitely change," Ronquillo assured. "Pride will come into play, with a lot of team members eager to prove themselves in the international arena."

Ronquillo predicted that the RP team will undergo a dramatic change when the real battle begins.

***

Well, starting tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum, we should be able to have a look at the real RP team Ronquillo has been speaking of when the mystery squad faces Chinese-Taipei.

Tito Talao was right. It was not Jong Uichico, but Ronquillo, who was the next choice to handle the RP squad after Ron Jacobs suffered a massive stroke.

From what we had been told, the job was also offered toYeng Guiao who likewise turned it down.

Not to say Uichico is not as classy as the two earlier choices to mentor the RP squad.

This guy, although relatively young, is himself an achiever. He's one of the winningest tacticians in the PBA today.

As such, Uichico cannot afford to get carried away if the RP squad scuttles and scatters the youthful Taipei dribblers in the two-game series.

No need to wonder why. A simple reading of the roster of the visiting Taiwanese squad would bare it's very raw. There's not one among the noted mainstays of the Taipei national team in the group that the RP Nationals will face.

If likened to looking at a mirror, this simply means the RP National team cannot properly look at itself using the inexperienced Chinese-Taipei school squad.

Indeed, our national basketball team needs a check-up.

But there's an even graver danger. The RP team could end up undergoing that no-nonsense diagnosis right in the Busan Asiad battleground.

It might be too late before they finally discover the exact ailment.

***

Here's good news for people behind the MBA (Metropolitan Basketball Association). There's one kindhearted man who sincerely feels the league is a necessity hereabouts.

Teddy Reynoso, a native of Bulacan who gives his address as LWUA Public Affairs, Balara, Quezon City, is confident that the MBA, "devoid of the dog-eat-dog commercialism," can still work and make a comeback soon.

Explains Mr. Reynoso: "The MBA concept remains as valid and noteworthy as it was originally conceived. It made possible regional representation in the sport, something not done or tried before even by well-established leagues. It made possible the discovery and development of talents from less-heralded schools. It made possible the regular holding of games in major regional centers. Most importantly, the MBA made us *provincianos* feel important and believe we can play a significant role in the promotion of basketball right in our regional backyards; and by this realize that we are not a mere audience to be targeted by the commercialism and sports imperialism of Metro Manila leagues."

In the same breath, Mr. Reynoso explains that the MBA failed because it veered too sharply from the original concept.

"Instead of building up from the available resources in its regional bases, it chose to rely on its main media sponsor, ABS-CBN, which later backed out," Reynoso notes. " Of course, with people like the Bascons, the Lhuilliers and other well-meaning sponsors particularly in our part of the country, we can prove that the *promdis* can."

Nice defense there.

Let's just hope and pray the MBA musters enough dignity to first pay its debts. Then it can stand and get back on the road.

'Nothing wrong with Supreme Court ruling'

By Leila B. Salaverria and Tina Santos

MAYORS of some towns and cities in Metro Manila are not protesting the recent Supreme Court ruling prohibiting them from "whimsically, arbitrarily or despotically" closing down nightclubs and entertainment joints.

Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay said the ruling does not affect him much because he always follows the rules.

"I don't think that applies to us," said Binay spokesman Lito Anzures. "We always give proper notice (to the affected establishments) whenever we plan to close them down."

But Anzures added that there is nothing the Makati government can do about police officials who conduct lightning raids on entertainment joints.

"That's already police action," he said.

Taguig Mayor Sigfrido Tinga has withheld comment on the ruling until he has fully studied the decision.

In a phone interview, Tinga said he and Pasay Mayor and Metro Manila Mayors' League spokesperson Pewee Trinindad had discussed the ruling.

"Mayor Trinidad and I talked about the matter and he told me that he has requested for a copy of the decision," Tinga said. "We agreed to read the whole text of the decision first before issuing any comments."

The Supreme Court had ruled on Friday that a mayor is not authorized to order a police raid on nightclubs "in the guise of inspecting or investigating these establishments."

The ruling stemmed from former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim's petition asking the high court to reverse several decisions upholding a temporary restraining order against the closure of several clubs in Manila's former red light district.

In a phone interview, Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco said the mayors would not really be affected by the high court decision since they exercise their authority in accordance with the law and respect the right to due process of the establishments' owners.

"If there are valid reasons to close certain establishments for violating ordinances, then by all means, as the mayor, I will close them them," Tiangco said.

Malabon City Mayor Amado Vicencio said: "As mayors, though it is our duty to protect the welfare of our people against prostitution and the unsanitary practices of entertainment establishments, we cannot just order the immediate closure of the establishments. There should be due process and we must abide by the lawd."

Caloocan City Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo, who had also not seen a copy of the ruling, said he would continue protecting the city residents against establishments that are being used as fronts for prostitution and violating city ordinances.

4 from Metro Manila feared dead in Zambales

By Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk

IBA, Zambales--Four vacationers from Metro Manila are feared dead after strong waves swept them away on a beach in Barangay Amungan here on Saturday, police said.

Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay said that as of yesterday noon, rescuers had not found Jerry Fernandez, 20; Jonathan Mandado, 20; Christopher Jandayan, 17; and Josua Cacho, 17, all residents of Caloocan City.

Magsaysay said three of the young men's companions, identified as Jennifer Mandado, Johhny Dalisay and Virgilio Valerio, were rescued.

Reports said the group went swimming in Sitio Lawak in Barangay Amungan despite the warning of their companions about the huge waves and strong current.

Crisanto Sugui, the lifeguard who rescued the survivors, said the waters off this town's coast had been rough due to the effects of tropical storm Milenyo, which hit Luzon and the Visayas last week.

12 minors still in Death Row

From p. A25

Like other inmates in Death Row, the 12 youth offenders are prohibited from leaving their cells and are not allowed to receive visitors aside from members of their immediate families, according to Macala.

Once the young prisoners are transferred to the medium security compound, they will be allowed to join educational and recreational activities in jail, he said.

They will also be allowed "free movement" inside the compound from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, Macala added.

At the Senate, committee on justice and human rights chair Sen. Francis Pangilinan asked the Supreme Court administrator to expedite the transfer of the 12 minors.

"I cannot understand what this dilly-dallying is all about," Pangilinan said in a statement.

He stressed that "the longer these minors stay in Death Row, the dimmer their chances for rehabilitation gets."

He said that as a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Philippines is "duty bound to protect and uphold the interests of children and ensure their continued development."

Pangilinan said he filed a bill seeking the creation of a juvenile justice system that would prevent the sending of minors to Death Row along with hardened criminals.

Under the bill, an office of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention would be created by the Department of Justice.

It would implement the government's delinquency prevention program, the development of a comprehensive three- to five-year program for juvenile justice, the conduct of research studies on juvenile justice and of regular and on-the-spot inspections of detention cells and rehabilitation centers.

Floods as a way of life

WET life goes on for people in Malabon City, including this fish sauce factory on Arellano Street where work continues despite the floods.
VAL HANDUMON

By Tina Santos

WITH AN improvised fishnet, John Michael Galicia, 13, of Barangay Dampalit, Malabon and his friends catch cultured *tilapia* and milkfish that escape from fish pens during the rainy season into the floodwaters in their barangay.

"This is fun," says John Michael. "This is not only a chance for us to play and enjoy the floods but also to earn money."

On board a banca, John Michael's father Mariano uses an improvised spear with a hook to catch fish in the chest-deep floods.

Father and son usually bring home 2 to 3 kilos of fish, part of which John Michael's mother Lydia sells in the market for P30 to 40 a kilo. At the end of the day, she cooks the leftover fish for supper.

The flooded streets of Dampalit have been a catch basin for floodwater and *tilapia*, which escape from damaged fish pens or are accidentally released.

Instead of cursing the local government for the lack of an effective flood control program, most residents of flood-prone Malabon City have come to consider floods a "blessing."

Acceptance

The Galicias are among the many residents of Malabon who have turned the rainy season and its floods into business opportunities.

A Malabon resident for more than 30 years now, *Aling* Lydia says her family is not affected by the floods that typhoons and monsoon rains bring.

"Floods have always been a part of our lives, we have learned to accept that," she says. "Anyway, we have nowhere else to go, so we just have to look at it in a positive way.

"It's just a matter of getting used to," she adds. "In fact, floods have been very helpful to us as a source of our daily income."

Men and boys take advantage of the floods by pushing stalled vehicles to higher ground, earning for themselves P20 to P70 per vehicle.

Waterworld

The low-lying Barangay Panghulo, particularly the Artex Compound, has earned the label "waterworld" because it is a vast swampland even without the rains.

Artex Compound, where a textile factory used to stand, is a catch basin for most of the bodies of water surrounding the Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela (Camanava) area.

The residents, whose houses are mostly two-story concrete structures, don't use cars, jeepneys, buses or tractors to travel. They go by boat, banca, or submarine. Or they swim.

According to barangay chair Reynaldo Vetus, the residents of Artex Compound seem to have taken the expression "come hell or high water" seriously for they endure floods all year round. He says his advice to the more than 200 families in the compound to evacuate to higher ground seems to fall on deaf ears.

Playground

Rommel Panisal, 21, says floods "have already become a way of life for us." When he was a kid, the flooded streets had been his playground.

"(Floodwaters) have been a part of my childhood," Panisal says. "I went to school not on board a school bus buton board a banca. My playmates and I used to play street games, such as basketball, in a flooded basketball court."

Residents use their second-floor windows instead of the front door to get in and out of the house, but Rommel says there is really nothing peculiar about the way they cope with floods. People entering their houses through windows is a common sight in their place, he says.

"It has become a joke that we are good at eloping since we enter and exit through the window while our 'service banca' is parked outside," he says.

"But we basically do the same things other people do, only, we do it while immersed in floodwater."

Staying

The floodwaters have also become a source of income for most of the men of Panghulo, who either make bancas or operate them.

A banca maker earns as much as P3,000 to P5,000 per banca, while a driver collects P5 per head transporting passengers through the floods.

Most of the residents have no plans of moving to another place, says Vetus. "They are used to this kind of life and they are staying. Come hell or high water."

BONG'S BOYS
Members of the Criminal and Investigation and Detection Group assist Video Regulatory Board Chair Bong Revilla in a well-publicized raid on Quiapo stalls selling pirated discs and tapes.
ERIK ARAZAS

Into the pirate's den

By Alcuin Papa

DEEP in the recesses of Quiapo is every film and music lover's dream. Certainly not unnoticed but definitely untouched by police until recently, vendors of pirated goods ply their trade with impunity that borders on privilege.

Hidden in a recess of Manila's bowels is a marketplace of pirated audio CDs, DVDs and VCDs of the latest movies and the latest music at rock bottom prices.

For as little as P100, the film buff can walk away with a pirated DVD copy of the adventures of Frodo and his merry fellowship in "Lord of the Rings," the genesis of a boy-wizard in "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," and all three installments of the saga of the Corleone family in "The Godfather."

The available VCDs are more current and cheaper. For example, you can get a passable copy of "Spider-man," "Minority Report" and the second episode of the Star Wars epic. But of course, the quality is suspect since most of the VCDs seem to have been receorder inside a moviehouse.

The quality of the pirated DVDs looks good enough onscreen, even to the film addict's discerning eye.

Audio CDs of the latest R & B, alternative and OPM hits are also available for about P30 each, cheaper if you buy them in bulk. Quality? No problem.

Mecca

After the long commute, this hardy and intrepid buyer gets off across the Quiapo church and traverses several streets. I take in the sights, the sounds, and the smell. Fumes from jeepneys and FX cabs fill my nostrils. The discomfort is a small price to pay, I reassure myself.

In one of these streets is a small space that is the mecca of illegal movies. I wade through the crowd and the stench.

At the entrance, male vendors with offers of X-rated DVDs and VCDs accost me. But I ignore them.

Inside, I am squeezed by the crowd of people jamming the narrow space between stalls. Loud disorienting music blares from some of the stalls selling audio CDs.

Overload

At each stall, I am inundated by the sheer number of choices on sale. Talk about information overload.

Classic movies, recent blockbusters, concerts, cult favorites, animé movies, the latest Seiko skin flick: You name it, they have it.

For music, boy bands, R & B, reggae, acid jazz, New Age, techno, alternative and heavy metal are available. My conscience pricked, I leave the OPM untouched.

When I first came here a few months ago, pirates were making good business with VCDs and audio CDs. When the market for DVDs grew, some stalls started offering DVD movies exclusively.

Soon enough, I am consumed, held back only by the thinness of my wallet. My own guilt and the anti-piracy sermons of friends who chastise me for buying pirated stuff fade away in the din.

Who cares, I tell myself? It's cheap and available. I dig some more, jumping at every fantastic find.

I walk into the porn section. Immediately, vendors call out their wares to me. I attract the attention of some men who seem to be watching my every move. I leave in a huff, spooked and unnerved. I am told later that they are bodyguards and bouncers who are on lookout for anyone who might tip off the police.

Backdoor

Peter (obviously not his real name) seems willing to engage me in a little banter while I choose from his wares. He won't reveal the exact source of the goods but he says he gets them through the "southern backdoor."

A little later, I ask for a title but he doesn't have it. "Our suppliers from Malaysia haven't delivered yet," he says. With my curiosity. satisfied, I make some purchases and try to disappear into the crowd.

I ask Johann (also not his real name), another vendor, if the new anti-piracy campaign launched by the government would put him out of business, especially now with an actor heading the Video Regulatory Board.

"They can raid other places but I don't think they can touch this place," Johann says matter-of-factly.

I dare not disagree.

Satiated and carrying my loot, I step back outside into the crowded street, my nostrils again assaulted by the smell. I take a deep breath and head for home.

Frustrated

It's a miracle pirates in Quiapo operate freely, virtually right under the nose of a Western Police District police station just a few blocks away.

Already, pirates are selling a new DVD format called DVD-9. It boasts of a clearer resolution and, I am told, closely approximates the quality of the original and with better sound, all for just P250. As if the old format wasn't good enough.

At home, I slide my new purchases, DVDs of the "Indiana Jones" series, into my player. All of them won't work.

Frustrated and a little puzzled, I wonder how this could happen when the stuff I bought before worked like charms. Ah, the price I have to pay for patronizing piracy, I sigh.

I insert my original copy of the Antonio Banderas starrer "Desperado," plop into my favorite seat with my favorite brew and debate with myself whether the original is always the best.

Finding fulfillment in collecting empties

By Joey C. Papa and Ana Ver-Papa, Contributors

JAY and Edna de la Paz, collectors of empty ink jet cartridges, convince other people to engage in the business by asking them if they would like to help save the environment.

When the prospective recruits show interest, the couple tells them all about collecting empty ink jet cartridges that might otherwise be thrown away, and getting good money in return.

Husband and wife used to be account managers for a firm that recycled empty laser jet cartridges. Then they learned that empty ink jet cartridges were also being recycled, from a co-worker who offered to buy these from them.

"The more we collected, the more money we earned," said Jay. "It's as simple as that."

Then they learned that a company in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone was buying the empty cartridges for a higher price.

After they visited Printing Images CtC Inc., the couple were impressed and encouraged, and they decided to get into the business full-time. They had seen the remanufacturing of the empty ink jet cartridges, the boxes of quality cartridges bound for abroad, especially Western Europe and North America.

Trust

"With Jay and Edna, our collection became more organized," said Norbert Grimm, president of Printing Images.

"That is the only way we can return the trust that Mr. and Mrs. (Susan) Grimm have given us and the other collectors," Jay said.

Edna said: "When we were still ordinary employees, we had a hard time paying the installments on our credit card and buying medicines for our kid who has asthma."

Jay and Edna now head Printing Images-Manila, the top branch of the Subic-based company. Based in Makati (895-4994), the couple's firm has a network called "Solid Collectors" that includes people from Metro Manila, Cavite, Pampanga, Bataan, Davao, and Cagayan De Oro.

"We started with the people we trust most, " said Edna, referring to her niece, Regina Vasquez, who was an assistant to her aunt. *Tita* Edna and *Tito* Jay soon allowed Regina to be a collector herself, and she in turn invited her boyfriend Reginald Gallardo to join her. Reginald did the rounds, knocking on doors, while Regina ran the office. In less than a year, they had a good amount of savings, aside from the money they used to buy appliances and a motorcycle. Their income enabled them to rent a collection office.

Figures

Regina's parents, Danilo (Edna's brother) and Noemi, and brother Rhaniel are also part of the business.

Danilo used to be an agent for a bottled water company where he earned so little that he could not afford to send all their children to school at the same time. Now, with Rhaniel running his own collection center, Danilo and Noemi can easily send their three other kids to school. Danilo has also bought himself a used car from his brother-in-law, Jay.

"If you want figures," Danilo offered, "just think of a minimum average of P10 per cartridge, and a minimum collection of 2,000 a month. But the average could be P20 per cartridge."

The good fortune has spread to other couples and individuals, such as Yuri and Lyn Garcia of Parañaque who used to run a business center and a security agency while Yuri was also working for a big semi-conductor plant. They have given up the business center and Yuri has left his job, and while they still have the security agency, their earnings from collecting empty cartridges now cover all their expenses.

Among their sources of empty cartridges is a private company which agreed to sell to them after the couple suggested that the money from the sale of the empty cartridges could go to the company's "Project Tulong" to help its employees. This has also prevented pilferage of the empties, hence more savings for the company.

Accident

After an accident that left him with a steel brace in one foot, Ricky Pinulan opted for early retirement from the bank where he had started as a messenger and had risen to became senior data control officer. Ricky is now earning much more from collecting and selling empty ink jet cartridges. While still working in the bank, he had met Jay and learned about empty cartridges.

He had been keeping a few empties, which he sold to Jay. He was able to buy medicines for which he was then spending some P700 a week. After that, still in crutches, he would go up office buildings to collect cartridges.

Ricky's efforts have paid off. He has expanded his business, with help from his father who collects for him in Laguna, and an uncle who takes care of the Mandaluyong area.

College

Ronald Villareal has been paying 90 percent of the cost of his computer science course from his income from collecting and selling cartridges. He also helps pay for his family's expenses and debts, including the mortgage on their house and lot in a modest subdivision.

As a campus ministry facilitator, he is sent to seminars out of town, where he collects empty cartridges.

Joey Javier, Jay's fellow member in a religious congregation, collects empty cartridges even as he continues to run his own business distributing grocery items. Last March, he earned P5,000 from the empties. The next month, he made P7,000 and the third, P15,000.

Joey is looking for someone to help him with his grocery distribution business so he can devote more time to collecting and selling empty cartridges.

For sreening times, call 729-7777.
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AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1	LILO & STITCH	LILO & STITCH	MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002	THE SWEETEST THING 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	LILO & STITCH
2	KILLING ME SOFTLY	KILLING ME SOFTLY	MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002	UNFAITHFUL 12:20, 3:05, 5:50, 8:35, 11:20	THE UNFAITHFUL
3	THE SWEETEST THING	UNFAITHFUL 1:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30	GARY V: HITS @ ONSTAGE - SEP. 6,20, 26 & 27 JOSE MARI CHAN @ ONSTAGE - SEP. 7 & 14	AMELIE 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20	LILO & STITCH
4	UNFAITHFUL	ORANGE COUNTY		KILLING ME SOFTLY 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	ABOUT A BOY
5		8 LEGGED FREAKS		LILO & STITCH 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	SWEETEST THING
6		THE SWEETEST THING			
7		ABOUT A BOY			

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5 GOLD (DOLBY) THE SWEETEST THING
6 GOLD (SDDS) LILO & STITCH
7 GOLD (DOLBY) KILLING ME SOFTLY
8 D' URAGONS
9 LILO & STITCH
10 STUART LITTLE 2

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1
2
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
TEL. 551 63 87
1 BIGLANG LIKO
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 MAPUPULANG ROSAS

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 THE SWEETEST THING
2 D' URAGONS
3 MAPUPULANG ROSAS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) UNFAITHFUL
5 BIGLANG LIKO

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285
1 MAPUPULANG ROSAS
2 D' URAGONS
3 UNFAITHFUL
4 BIGLANG LIKO
5 LILO & STITCH
6 THE SWEETEST THING
7
8

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2011 to13
1 UNFAITHFUL

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 GALING-GALING MO
2 STUART LITTLE ?

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515
1
2 MAPUPULANG ROSAS
3 RESERVE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864
1
A

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 BIGLANG LIKO
2 8 LEGGED FREAKS
3
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (DOLBY) EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2
3
4 MAPUPULANG ROSAS
5 LILO & STITCH
6 BIGLANG LIKO
7 (DTS) UNFAITHFUL
8 (SDDS) THE SWEETEST THING
9 (DOLBY) KILLING ME SOFTLY

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
1 BIGLANG LIKO
2 8 LEGGED FREAKS
3 D' URAGONS
4 (SDDS) THE SWEETEST THING
5 MAPUPULANG ROSAS
6 (DOLBY) LILO & STITCH
7 (DTS) UNFAITHFUL
8 GALING-GALING MO
9 SAGAD

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS)
2
3
4 MAPUPULANG ROSAS
5 (SDDS) LILO & STITCH
6 UNFAITHFUL
7 (DOLBY) THE SWEETEST THING
8 BIGLANG LIKO

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 BIGLANG LIKO
2 THE SWEETEST THING
3 (DTS) LILO & STITCH
4 MAPUPULANG ROSAS
5 (SDDS) UNFAITHFUL

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 BIGLANG LIKO

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 BIGLANG LIKO

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson MAPUPULANG ROSAS
Lords MAPUPULANG ROSAS
Jennet

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED
3 CLOSED

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
3

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) UNFAITHFUL
2 BIGLANG LIKO
3 LILO & STITCH
4 D' URAGONS
5 MAPUPULANG ROSAS

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619
1
2
3
4
5
6

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite
1
2

Berma
TEL. 879 21 68 / 879 21 67
1 BIGLANG LIKO
2 UNFAITHFUL

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1
2

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 SAGAD
2 THE SWEETEST THING
3 (DTS) 8 LEGGED FREAKS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 LILO & STITCH
2 (DTS) MEGIDDO
3 (DOLBY) THE SWEETEST THING
4 UNFAITHFUL

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 THE SWEETEST THING
2 (DOLBY) LILO & STITCH
3 (DTS) UNFAITHFUL
4 MEGIDDO

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 D' URAGONS
2 WINDTALKERS
3 STUART LITTLE 2
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 D' URAGONS
2 SORORITY BOYS
3 (DOLBY) WINDTALKERS
4 (DTS) STUART LITTLE 2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) LILO & STITCH
2 MAPUPULANG ROSAS
3 HUNGER FOR LOVE
4 (DTS) BIGLANG LIKO

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) UNFAITHFUL
2 SAGAD
3 (DTS) LILO 7 STITCH
4 THE SWEETEST THING
5 HANGGANG KAILAN AKO

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 PAGSALUHAN NATIN
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 LILO & STITCH

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558
1 PAGSALUHAN NATIN
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 THE SWEETEST THING

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1
2
3

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) SAGAD
2 (DTS) RESERVE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 RESERVE

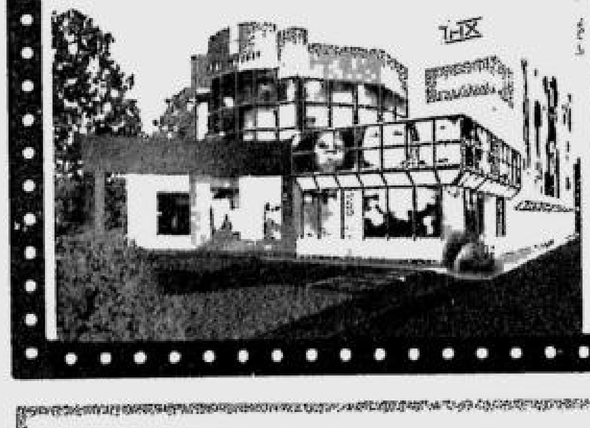
Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 GALING-GALING MO,
2 D' URAGONS
3 SAGAD

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 D' URAGONS
2 8 LEGGED FREAKS
3 MEGIDDO
4 SAGAD

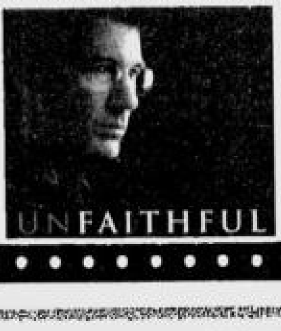
Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) LILO & STITCH
2 THE SWEETEST THING
3 (DTS) THE UNFAITHFUL
4 MEGIDDO

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS



PREMIERE CINEMA NOW SHOWING
5:00 PM, 7:30PM, 10:00 PM



SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868
1 UNFAITHFUL
2 D' URAGONS
3 LILO & STITCH
4 SWEETEST THING
5 WINDTALKERS
6 8 LEGGED FREAKS
7 BIGLANG LIKO
8 KILLING ME SOFTLY

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7181416
1 UNFAITHFUL
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 LILO & STITCH
4 SWEETEST THING
5 ANG GALING GALING MO
6 D' URAGONS
7 8 LEGGED FREAKS
8 WINDTALKERS
9 BIGLANG LIKO
10 STUART LITTLE 2

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 MAPUPULANG ROSAS
2 ORANGE COUNTY
3 STUART LITTLE 2
4 LILO & STITCH
5 KILLING ME SOFTLY
6 D' URAGONS
7 SWEETEST THING
8 UNFAITHFUL
9 WINDTALKERS
10 8 LEGGED FREAKS
11 ANG GALING GALING MO
12 BIGLANG LIKO

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 SWEETEST THING
2 ABOUT A BOY
3 8 LEGGED FREAKS
4 LILO & STITCH
5 UNFAITHFUL
6 WINDTALKERS
7 KILLING ME SOFTLY
8 BIGLANG LIKO
9 D' URAGONS
10 STUART LITTLE 2
11 MEGIDDO
12 ORANGE COUNTY

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 - 6329401
1 ABOUT A BOY
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 D' URAGONS
4 UNFAITHFUL
5 ORANGE COUNTY
6 WINDTALKERS
7 ANG GALING GALING...
8 8 LEGGED FREAKS
9 LILO & STITCH
10 SWEETEST THING
11 STUART LITTLE 2
12 BIGLANG LIKO

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 8 LEGGED FREAKS
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 ORANGE COUNTY
4 BIGLANG LIKO
5 UNFAITHFUL
6 SWEETEST THING
7 WINDTALKERS
8 LILO & STITCH

SM SOUTHMALL
8068888
1 ORANGE COUNTY
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 LILO & STITCH
4 SWEETEST THING
5 ABOUT A BOY
6 D' URAGONS
7 UNFAITHFUL
8 8 LEGGED FREAKS
9 WINDTALKERS
10 BIGLANG LIKO

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 WINDTALKERS
2 LILO & STITCH
3 ABOUT A BOY
4 UNFAITHFUL
5 SORORITY BOYS
6 MEGIDDO
7 SAGAD
8 8 LEGGED FREAKS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 HIGH CRIMES
2 CLOSED
3 ANG GALING GALING
4 8 LEGGED FREAKS
5 DOG SOLDIERS
6 LILO & STITCH
7 CLOSED
8 MEGIDDO

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 8 LEGGED FREAKS
2 SWEETEST THING
3 MEGIDDO
4 BIGLANG LIKO
5 UNFAITHFUL
6 LILO & STITCH

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 BIGLANG LIKO
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 LILO & STITCH
4 D' URAGONS

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 UNFAITHFUL
2 BIGLANG LIKO
3 LILO & STITCH
4 D' URAGONS

SM CITY DAVAO
2976988
1 HIGH CRIMES
2 ABOUT A BOY
3 8 LEGGED FREAKS
4 ANG GALING GALING...
5 WINDTALKERS
6 LILO & STITCH

SM BICUTAN
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1
2
3
4
SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City
633-0976

1 LILO & STITCH
11:30 MF/1:25/3:20/5:15/7:10/9:05/11:00 LMF/12:30 END

2 UNFAITHFUL
11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/11:00 LMF/1:05 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
Matinee : P100.00 - Screening until 5pm - Monday thru Friday
Regular Rate P120.00 - After 5pm - Saturday - Sunday - Holidays (Reserved Seating)

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls
NOW SHOWING

Galleria
632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279
1 THX WINDTALKERS
2 THE SWEETEST THING
3 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4 ORANGE COUNTY
5 LILO & STITCH
6 UNFAITHFUL
7 BIGLANG LIKO
8 KILLING ME SOFTLY
9 ABOUT A BOY
10 STUART LITTLE 2

Ermita
536 -7809- 12
1 UNFAITHFUL
2 ORANGE COUNTY
3 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
4 THE SWEETEST THING
5 BIGLANG LIKO
6 LILO & STITCH
7 KILLING ME SOFTLY

Metro East -
Marcos Hway
687- 8193 / 8780
1 ABOUT A BOY
2 KILLING ME SOFTLY
3 UNFAITHFUL
4 LILO & STITCH
5 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
6 THE SWEETEST THING
7 WINDTALKERS
8 BIGLANG LIKO

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30
1 KILLING ME SOFTLY
2 LILO & STITCH
3 LILO & STITCH
4 THE SWEETEST THING
5 BIGLANG LIKO
6 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
7 UNFAITHFUL
8 WINDTALKERS

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838
1 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2 LILO & STITCH
3 BIGLANG LIKO
4 THE SWEETEST THING
5 UNFAITHFUL
6 KILLING ME SOFTLY

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459
1 LILO & STITCH
2 MEGIDDO
3 ANG GALING 2 MO BABES
4 DOG SOLDIERS
5 STUART LITTLE 2
6 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78
1 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
2 MEGIDDO
3 HIGH CRIMES
4 EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
5 LILO & STITCH
6 ANG GALING 2 MO BABES

Star Mills-
San Fernando, Pamp.
875 1927
961 5318 / 5270
1 MEGGIDO
2 THE SWEETEST THING
3 LILO & STITCH
4 BIGLANG LIKO
5 UNFAITHFUL
6 LILO & STITCH

malabon citisquare-
soon to open.

UNFAITHFUL

Late Night Screening
on
Aug. 17 - 18, 2002
Friday & Saturday - 11:00 p.m. @
Robinsons Movieworld Galleria

how-2-reach-us:
email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Winners of a very tight race

From p. A32

MONTEVERDE. Still doing what she does best.

Ishmael Bernal award for Young Cinema.

Performances by instrumentalist John Lesaca, singers Bituin Escalante and Jaimie Rivera, the Kontragapi troupe and the Sanghiyas of the Philippine High School for Culture and the Arts added color to the closing ceremony.

Actors Bembol Rocco, Yul Servo and Angel Aquino paid tribute to filmmaker Lino Brocka in an opening number featuring scenes from the late great director's all-time best, "Maynila . . . Sa Mga Kuko ng Liwanag."

Singer-commedienne Marissa Sanchez gave the audience a laughing break when she co-hosted the ceremony with Lara Fabregas and Eddie Mercado.

Also present were festival director Tikoy Aguiluz, Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay, Makati Rep. Butz Aquino, critic and filmmaker Atahualpa Lichy, critic Max Tessier, film fest organizer Robert Malengreau and Asian European Foundation (Asef) director Delfin Colone.

The festival ended on Aug. 15 with Wong Kar Wai's romantic drama set in the Hong Kong of the early '60s, "In the Mood for Love."

BINAY

LIGHT MOMENT is provided by heavyweight singer-comic Marissa Sanchez.

Regal's biggest star is starmaker Mother Lily

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

REGAL Films matriarch **Lily Monteverde** is undaunted by the many obstacles plaguing the movie industry. Mother Lily's fighting spirit allows her outfit, Regal Entertainment, to survive and to continue producing hits and discovering stars and turning them into fine actors and actresses.

The wind beneath Mother Lily's wings is her husband, Father **Leonardo "Remy" Monteverde**. Their children—**Dondon, Goldwyn, Meme** and **Roselle**—also do their share in making the film outfit flourish, with the help of friends and partners led by **Douglas Quijano**.

Regal started in the '60s by releasing foreign movies, the most memorable of which was the tearjerker "All Mine To Give," a huge box office hit. Regal went on to produce original Filipino movies that featured veterans and launched new talents.

Maricel Soriano, Dina Bonnevie and **Snooky Serna** were catapulted to fame after they were launched as the first batch of Regal Babies in "Underage" in the early '80s.

Gina Alajar, Alma Moreno, Rio Locsin, Lorna Tolentino, Cherie Gil, Elizabeth Oropesa were all given solo starrers under the Regal banner in the '70s and '80s.

Mother Lily was also responsible for the rise to fame of **Ruffa Gutierrez, Aiko Melendez, Carmina Villaroel, Manilyn Reynes, Alice Dixson, Lani Mercado, Sheryl Cruz, Janice de Belen** and sister **Gelli, Tina Paner, Lotlot de Leon** and sister **Matet, Gretchen Barreto, Aiza Seguerra, Kristine Garcia, Kris Aquino, Ara Mina, Assunta de Rossi** and **Rosanna Roces**.

Even big name actresses such as **Nora Aunor, Gloria Romero, Vilma Santos, Lolita Rodriguez** and the late **Charito Solis** and **Nida Blanca** (Mother Lily's favorite) starred in Regal films and won acting awards and nominations.

Action king **Fernando Poe Jr.**, comedy king **Dolphy**, action stars **Rudy Fernandez, Bong Revilla Jr.** and **Phillip Salvador** also topbilled Regal movies.

And who can forget the heartthrobs—**Richard Gomez, Gabby Concepcion, Albert Martinez** and brother **William, Alfie Anido** and **Aga Mulach**?

Today, Mother Lily continues to do what she has started decades ago. She places her bets this time on bombshells **Lolita de Leon** (who will be launched in **Maryo J. de los Reyes'** sex drama, "Laman") and **Aubrey "Prosti" Miles**.

This month, Regal marks its anniversary and Mother Lily celebrates her birthday.

Arnee twice a winner

CONGRATULATIONS to **Arnee Hidalgo**, who won second place in the recent Voice of Asia International Music Festival in Kazakhstan Republic.

Arnee's winning song was "Sing but One Song," an original composition by prolific songwriter **Vehnee Saturno**, who also took top honors as best song in the festival.

Arnee now joins the prestigious league of Voice of Asia winners that include **Regine Velasquez, Dessa** and **Samantha Chavez**.

REGAL'S/ p. A30

HIDALGO. Beauty and talent. ROGER MARGALLO

BAG THE BIGGEST CASH PRIZE OF YOUR LIFE!

KISS-KISS 2 MILLIONS

SCRATCH YOUR WAY TO ₱1,000,000 WITH JACK 'N JILL CHIPPY, PIATTOS AND NOVA!

TO WIN
1. Look for the Kiss-Kiss 2 Millions game card inside packs of Jack 'n Jill Chippy, Piattos and Nova.
2. Lightly scratch the silver cover off the three panels.
3. If all the three panels match, you win the prize indicated!
4. Each game card is subject to security code verification. Cards that are damaged and/or tampered will not be honored.

PRIZES

PRIZES	WINNERS	PRIZES	WINNERS
₱1,000,000	2	₱10,000	100
₱100,000	10	₱1,000	1,000
₱25,000	30	₱100	100,000

CLAIMING YOUR PRIZE
1. Prizes may be claimed at any Equitable-PCI Bank branch nationwide.
2. Present your winning card(s) together with a valid ID (School ID, Company ID, Driver's License, SSS Card, TIN Card or Passport) to the Kiss-Kiss 2 Millions promo representative. Minors claiming their prizes should be accompanied by an adult with a valid ID. An Equitable-PCI Bank/Kiss-Kiss 2 Millions promo representative will verify your game card and ID.
3. Participants can redeem as many winning cards as possible.
4. All prizes are tax-free.
5. ₱100 and ₱1,000 winners can receive their prizes upon presenting their validated game card.
6. Prizes from ₱10,000 and above may be claimed 8 days after presenting the game card for validation.
7. The ₱10,000 prize will be awarded in the form of an ATM account with Equitable-PCI Bank.
8. ₱25,000, ₱100,000, and ₱1 million prizes will be awarded in the form of an ATM or Passbook account with Equitable-PCI Bank.
9. Prizes not claimed before January 31, 2003 will be forfeited.
10. Disqualification: This promo is open to all Filipinos except employees of Universal Robina Corporation, its distributors, McCann-Erickson Philippines, Harrison Communications, Brand Loyalty, Starcom and Equitable-PCI Bank including their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity and affinity.

PROMO PERIOD IS FROM AUGUST 1 TO OCTOBER 31, 2002 ONLY.

In partnership with: Equitable PCI BANK

SO KISS-KISS NOW AND BE ONE STEP CLOSER TO MILLIONS!

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0359, Series of 2002

Disney Channel airs new action-packed series on 'Disney Buzz' block

DISNEY Channel's new series, "Teamo Supremo," airs on the "Disney Buzz" block every Friday, 5 to 7 p.m. and weekends, 2 to 4 p.m.

Join Captain Crandall, Rope Girl and Skate Lad as they embark on high-flying action-packed adventures. Their motto is "Doing the right thing is super" and they have sworn to protect the world from the evil forces of Sinister Stylist, Laser Pirate and Birthday Bandit.

With "Teamo Supremo" on the "Disney Buzz," the block is now bursting with action on its new season. Hosts Jien, Azura and Karen bring much excitement to kids from Friday to Sunday with their fun segments, games and interactive portions.

Also aired on the "Disney Buzz" is "Teacher's Pet," which returns for a new season for more laughs and unforgettable antics. The animated series follows the adventures of Leonard Helperman, an average kid in school where his mom is the teacher and where his dog Scott sits with him.

"Lloyd in Space" also returns to the "Disney Buzz" with brand new episodes, more fun-filled day-to-day dilemmas of Lloyd, an alien teenager who must endure the often confusing transition toward adulthood.

Also catch the "Wheel Squad" on the "Disney Buzz" as they roll into action with even more exciting escapades that are bound to keep the whole family thrilled.

Disney Channel Asia is a multi-territory feed that covers several Asean and South Asian countries.

Regal's . . .

From p. A29

Arnee returned to the country last week and was given a warm reception at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. She was welcomed by her recording boss, **Bella Dy-Tan** of Universal Records, and talent manager **Arnold Vegrafria**.

It was not only Arnee's singing talent that was recognized in the festival. She also bested 28 other performers as the most beautiful contestant.

Arnee's exotic looks were even more pronounced in a stunning **Larry Espinosa** gown.

In the three-day songfest, Arnee interpreted three Saturno originals—"Where I Wanna Be" (with lyrics by **Doris Saturno**), "Till My Heartaches End" (lyrics by **Tito Cayamanda**) and "Sing But One Song" (lyrics by **Nyoy Volante**).

Arnee was a former member of **Ryan Cayabyab's** 14-K and was a finalist in last year's Metropop song competition. She also joined The Vibe, an R&B trio, in 1996.

The 20-year-old performer is majoring in mathematics at the Ateneo de Manila University.

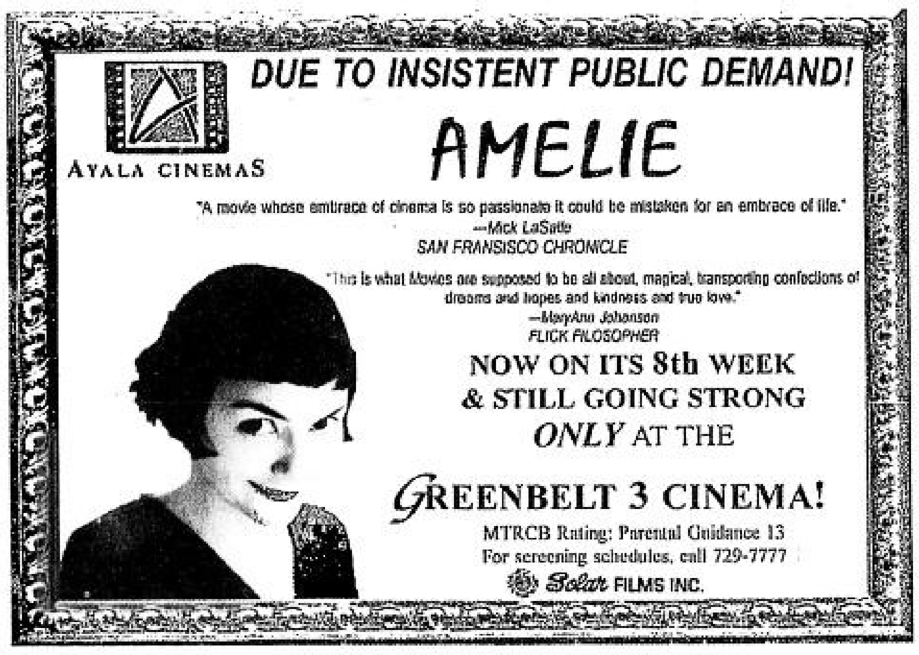
Prior to the Voice of Asia competition, she recorded an acoustic version of "Tanging Yaman," as part of the compilation album, "Power of Your Love," which was endorsed by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) as part of the 4th World Meeting of Families celebration in January 2003.

Arnee is the younger sister of former Smokey Mountain member **Jeffrey Hidalgo**.

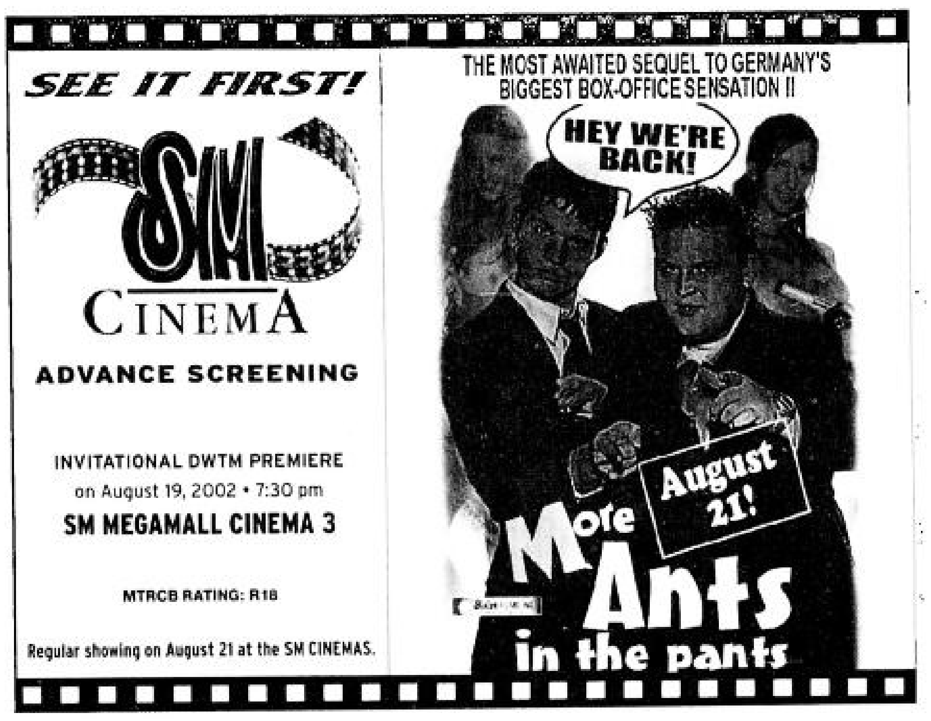
LUNGSOD NG MAKATI 1995 PILIPINAS
AYALA CINEMAS
The Best of CINEMANILA 2002
August 16 to September 3 2002

		GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 1	GREENBELT 1 CINEMA 2
Aug. 17 (Sat.)	10:30	ADDRESS UNKNOWN	THE GIRL FROM PARIS
	1:30	69	MANITO
	3:30	FRIEND	CENTRAL STATION
	6:30	FAST FOOD, FAST WOMEN	WHAT TIME IS IT THERE?
	8:10	DOG DAYS	ATANARJUAT
	10:30	NO MAN'S LAND	SEAFOOD
Aug. 18 (Sun.)	10:30	BASHU, THE LITTLE STRANGER	FOLLOWING
	1:30	ONCE UPON A TIME IN CHINA	FRIEND
	3:30	A CITY OF SADNESS	EATING AIR
	6:30	ATANARJUAT	WHAT TIME IS IT THERE?
	8:30	CENTRAL STATION	A PORNOGRAPHIC AFFAIR
	10:30	HOLLYWOOD HONG KONG	QUITTING
Aug. 19 (Mon.)	10:30	WATERBOYS	BASHU, THE LITTLE STRANGER
	1:30	EATING AIR	THE GIRL FROM PARIS
	3:30	DOG DAYS	FRIEND
	6:30	FAST FOOD, FAST WOMEN	SEAFOOD
	8:30	69	NO MAN'S LAND
	10:30	KIKOJIRU	A PORNOGRAPHIC AFFAIR

AYALA CINEMAS
DR. EVIL
AT ALL AYALA CINEMAS AUGUST 28
Austin Powers in GOLDMEMBER


AYALA CINEMAS
DUE TO INSISTENT PUBLIC DEMAND!
AMELIE
"A movie whose embrace of cinema is so passionate it could be mistaken for an embrace of life."
—Mick LaSalle
SAN FRANSISCO CHRONICLE
"This is what Movies are supposed to be all about, magical, transporting confections of dreams and hopes and kindness and true love."
—MaryAnn Johanson
FLICK FILOSOPHER
NOW ON ITS 8th WEEK
& STILL GOING STRONG
ONLY AT THE
GREENBELT 3 CINEMA!
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
For screening schedules, call 729-7777
Solar FILMS INC.

SEE IT FIRST!
SM CINEMA
ADVANCE SCREENING
INVITATIONAL KOOL 106 PREMIERE
on August 19, 2002 • 7:30 pm
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 1
MTRCB RATING: PG13
Regular showing on August 21 at the SM CINEMAS.
Simultaneously shown at
SM Cebu • Iloilo • Davao • Pampanga
VIN DIESEL
XXX
A NEW BREED OF SECRET AGENT


SEE IT FIRST!
SM CINEMA
ADVANCE SCREENING
INVITATIONAL DWTM PREMIERE
on August 19, 2002 • 7:30 pm
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 3
MTRCB RATING: R18
Regular showing on August 21 at the SM CINEMAS.
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August 21!
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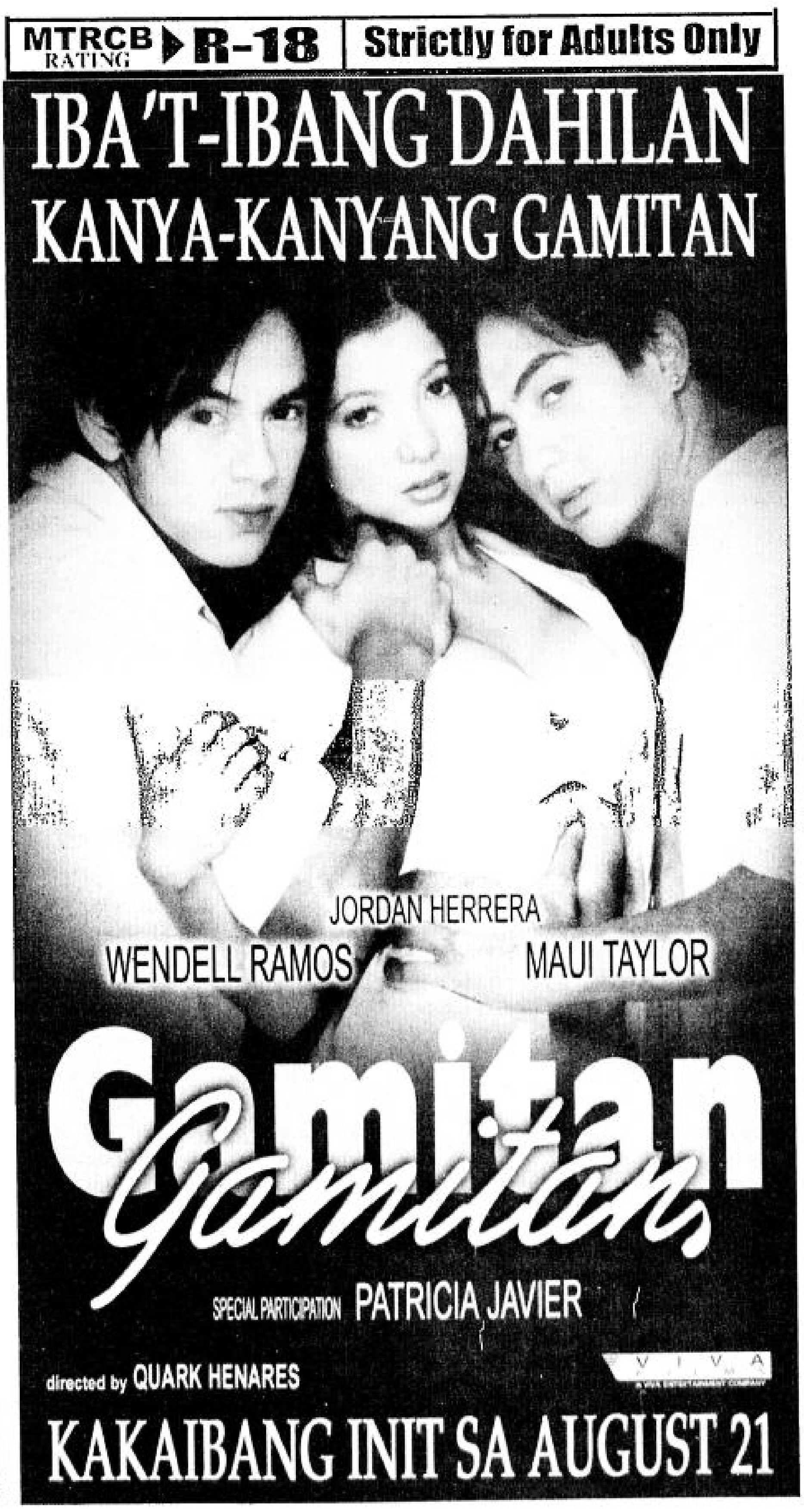
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18 | Strictly for Adults Only
IBA'T-IBANG DAHILAN
KANYA-KANYANG GAMITAN
JORDAN HERRERA
WENDELL RAMOS
MAUI TAYLOR
Gamitan Gamitan
SPECIAL PARTICIPATION PATRICIA JAVIER
directed by QUARK HENARES
VIVA
KAKAIBANG INIT SA AUGUST 21

OPENS AUGUST 21
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After Schwarzenegger and Stallone, comes a new kind of action hero in a new kind of high-adrenaline action-adventure.
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His secret agent code name: xXx (Triple X).
Columbia Pictures presents the biggest slam-bang action picture of the season!
Time Magazine says xXx is "a highly stylized adrenaline rush of a movie." You won't want to miss it.
Only in Cinemas

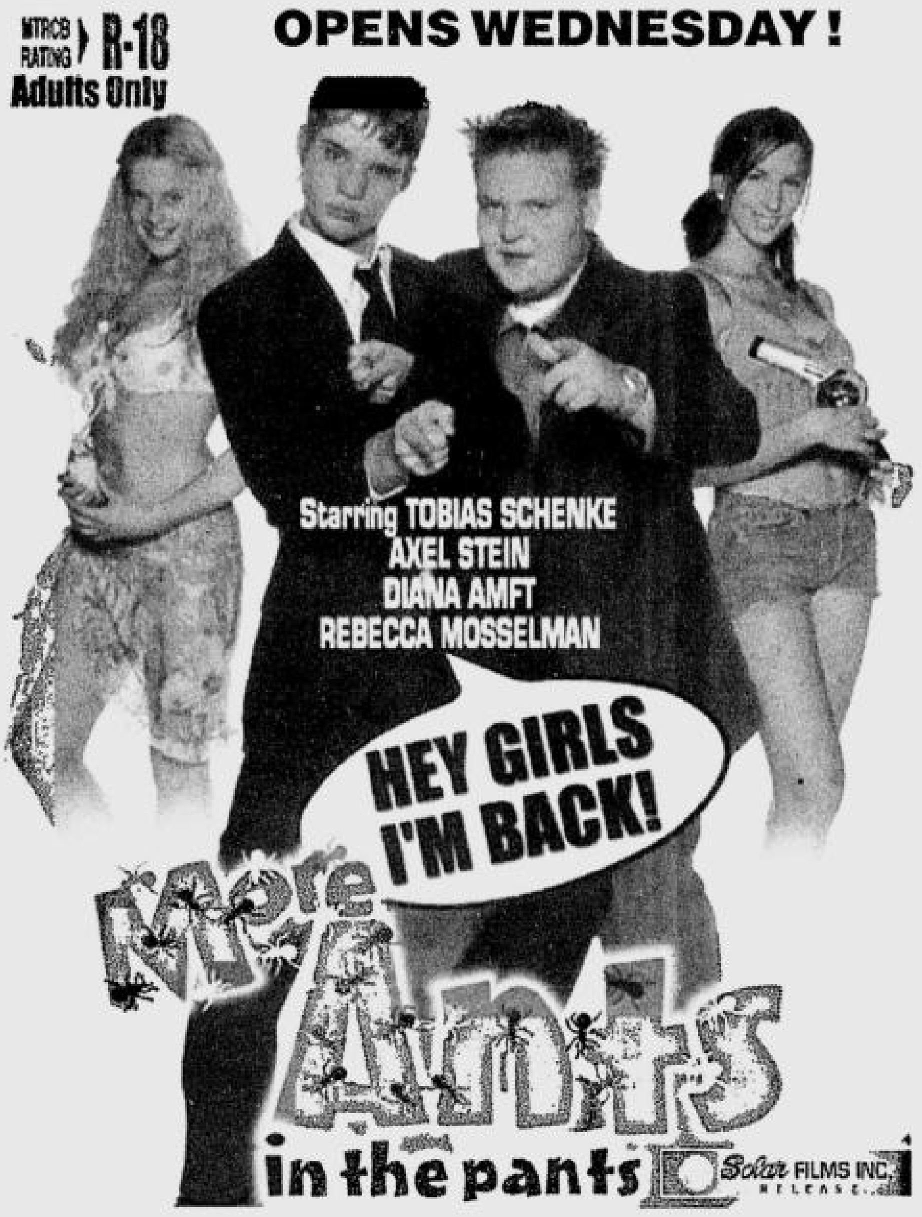
New beauty segment on 'Tropang Pinoy'

THE WEEKEND telemagazine show, "Tropang Pinoy," presents new beauty and entrepreneurship segments, Sundays, 3 p.m. on RPN 9.

The "Buhay Pinoy" segment is hosted by Evelyn Mateo and showcases Pinoy lifestyle in different places in the country.

"Tropang Pinoy" host Tony Tamayo promises more exciting and informative features in the future.

Regular portions in the show are "Usapang Medikal" and "Dear Kuya Tony."



Beyond wish-fulfillment

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

RECENTLY, we watched two shows with similar wish-fulfillment formats, Channel 7's "Wish Ko Lang" and Channel 2's "Willingly Yours," the better to compare how they went about granting needy people's most urgent pleas.

"Wish Ko Lang" helped unite a fractured family, made it possible for two highland couples to swim in the sea for the first time, and gifted a blind vendor with a raincoat and other things he needed to make his life easier.

For its part, "Willingly Yours" had host **Willie Revillame** disguising himself as a bum so that he could ask derelicts what they wanted. A father-daughter tandem wanted food, a watch-your-car man was given new clothes, a mentally-disturbed prisoner was released from jail after nine years and reunited with his children, and two midget siblings got their wish to meet their favorite celebrities.

The debuting show "Willingly yours," clicked due to its disguise element, but it soon became apparent that both programs were sometimes limited by the palliative nature of the help they extended.

Take the father and daughter who had two good meals. Was that the extent of the assistance that "Willingly Yours" would lend them? What would happen when they got hungry again?

Some people will point out that a good meal is better than nothing at all, especially for people who go hungry as a matter of course. At least, the father and daughter could savor the memory of that filling meal of spaghetti and fried chicken, right?

Alas, life is not that simple, or simplistic.

This seems to be the problem with both shows, that they sometimes enter people's lives to do one thing only, and never mind matters like the context, the woefully limited nature of the assistance, what will happen to the recipients afterwards, etc.

The highland couples swimming in the sea for the first time was a cut feature—until the viewers remembered that one of the couples had nine children and lived a life of penury. How would their weekend escapade in the briny deep help alleviate their lot in life?

It would be fun to play back over and over again in their minds, but were the nine children, who had stayed home, helped in any substantial way at all? (Ditto for the watch-your-car man with his new clothes.)

Recipients who fared better were the blind vendor who at least got things that could help him in his work; the family that was reunited; and the mentally-disturbed prisoner who was finally released from jail.

The midget siblings wanted nothing more than a chance to meet their favorite stars, and they got exactly that, so they were happy. But most of the other recipients had more urgent needs, some of which were neither acknowledged nor met.

Of course, both shows stress that they want to be of help not mainly in a "material" way, but when they choose to focus in the down-and-out, how can this be? Aside from the simplistic wish-fulfillment, there should be an economic assistance as well, so that the recipients' happiness will last longer than one day or weekend.

But it's important that the assistance not come in the form of dole-outs. Like a good meal, handouts don't last long either.

Both shows can continue to have "cute," inspiring, unusual features, but each week, they should also select a needy family to loan some P5,000 to, so it can start a small business. More, the family should be helped by an appropriate volunteer organization to learn how to manage the fund, to reduce the possibility of losses.

Every six months, viewers can be kept posted on how each family is faring, and the factors leading to success or failure should be discussed. This way, families can be helped on a more permanent basis, and even non-recipients can benefit from the volunteer organizations' counsel, which could help them start small business of their own.

Wishing is fine, but improving one's life is much better.

Feedback

FROM **Ma. Mayet Isla** of Cubao, QC: "Last July 22, your column ran a letter from a reader about some talented young director at ABS-CBN. I want to make a correction: the director of 'Recuerdo de Amor' is not **Erick C. Salud** but **Erick M. Reyes.**

"I believe that Erick C. Salud is a fine director, but Erick M. Reyes should be given his due. He is a very intelligent director and has done well with 'Marinella' and 'Recuerdo de Amor.'"

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	8 LEGGED FREAKS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	D' URAGONS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	SWEETEST THING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	LILO & STITCH
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	UNFAITHFUL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	KILLING ME SOFTLY
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	BIGLANG LIKO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	D' URAGONS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	PAGSAWAAN / 40 DAYS 40 NIGHTS
ODEON	UNFAITHFUL
ODEON-2	SELDA / MONSTER BALL
ROBEN	BIGLANG LIKO
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	HART'S WAR / SCORPION KING
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	MAPUPULANG ROSAS
REMAR	BIGLANG LIKO
REMAR-2	MAPUPULANG ROSAS
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BIGLANG LIKO
B	MAPUPULANG ROSAS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-2	LILO & STITCH
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BIGLANG LIKO
CINEMA-2	MAPUPULANG ROSAS
CINEMA-3	SAGAD
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	D' URAGONS
CINEMA-6	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-7	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-8	ABOUT A BOY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	UNFAITHFUL
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ORANGE COUNTRY
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	LILO & STITCH
CINEMA-12	SWEETEST THING
CINEMA-14	KILLING ME SOFTLY
CINEMA-15	8 LEGGED FREAKS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA
CINEMA-5	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-6	SELDA
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Bands liven up Streetlife this month

THIS stormy month of August, Streetlife Remix, Makati's food and entertainment hub, gives no excuse to lie in bed and sulk, with its line up of musical artists and talents.

The country's top dance-techno band Passage dishes out their best lounge, house, down tempo, acid and funky tunes.

Silk enlivens Tuesday nights with a healthy dose of pop and R&B hits, with covers from the likes of Destiny's Child, Janet Jackson and J. Lo.

Prepare for an animated Wednesday with Fat Session as the group renders a lineup of popular tunes from the '70s, mixed with a good dose of humor. Singer-comedians Archie, Maria and Orca perform hits from Diana Ross, Carole King and The Carpenters.

Thursdays are special treats with back-to-back treats from Nxt Level and Velocity bands.

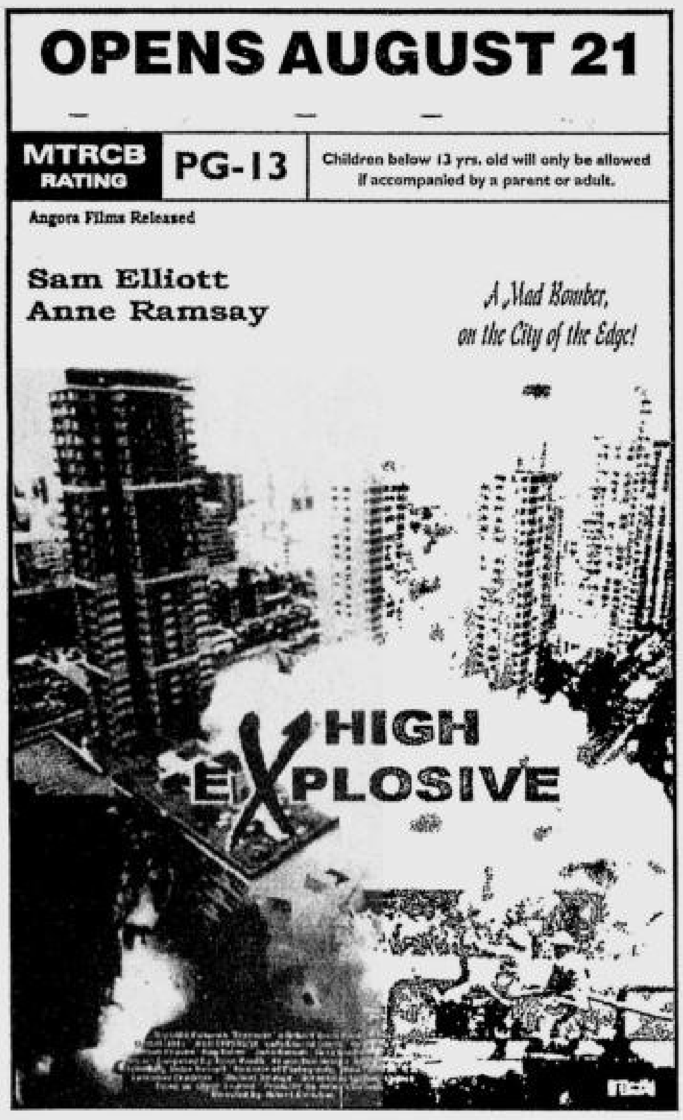
Velocity will dazzle the crowd with their modern and mainstream pop repertoire.

Seasoned performers Nxt Level follows with a diverse playlist containing classics, dance-techno and pop hits, from front liners DJ Durano, Mae Caragan and Camille Patino.

MOG (Merchants of Groove) and Reigndance will sizzle Fridays with a merry mix of pop, R&B and dance from the Top 40 list.

Get an explosive Saturday with Big Nite Out's rendition of well-loved dance tunes like "Dancing Queen," "Buttercup" and current top hits like Pink's "Get the Party Started" and the Ja Rule-Ashanti hit, "Always On Time."

Tribe of Levi will entertain the audience with more dance tunes from the late '80s and '90s.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ABOUT A BOY
P13
1:25, 3:30, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45

LILO & STITCH
GP
11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50

UNFAITHFUL
R 18
11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

THE SWEETEST THING
R18
12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00

ORANGE COUNTY
P13
12:40, 2:30, 4:20, 6:10, 8:00, 9:50

LILO & STITCH
GP
12:40, 2:40, 4:35

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CINEMA 2
LILO & STITCH
12:05, 2:00, 3:55,
5:50, 7:45, 9:40
P 13

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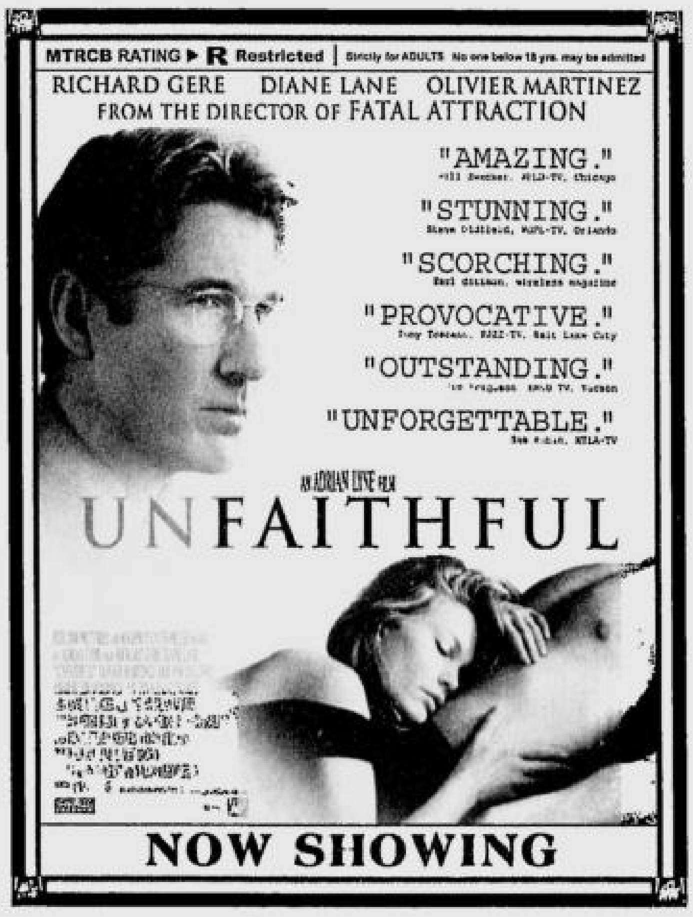
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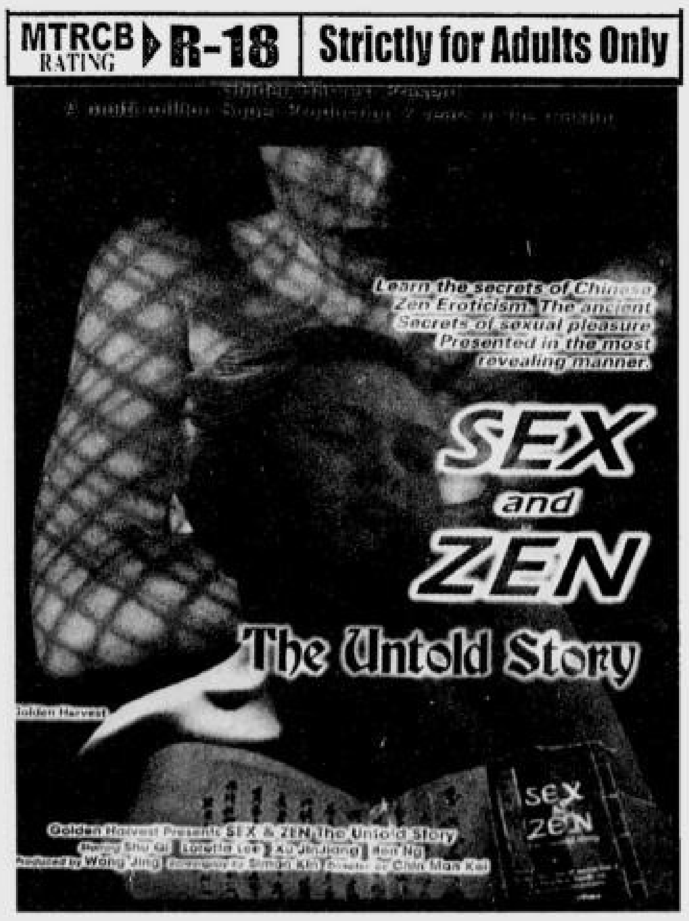
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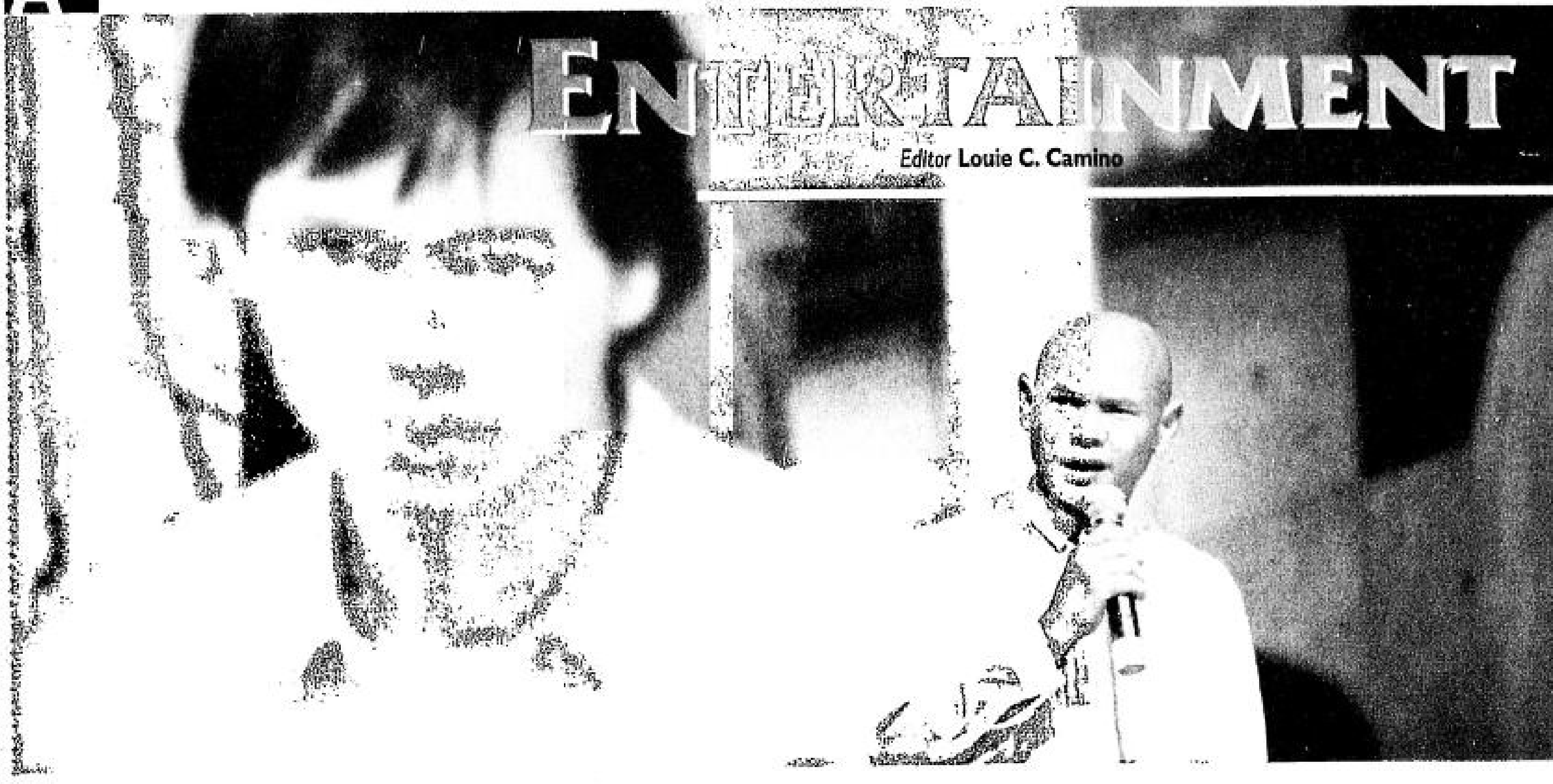
SEX and ZEN
The Untold Story
Golden Harvest



BROCKA'S BOY Bembol Roco pays tribute to the late great Lino Brocka. Behind him is a scene from Brocka's "Maynila."

MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002

Winners of a very tight race

By Marinel R. Cruz

IT WAS a very tight race with more than 300 film entries vying for only 10 awards in this year's Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival.

In the end, Tsai Ming-liang's "What Time is it There" from Taiwan and Zacharias Kunuk's "Atanarjuat, the Fast Runner" from Canada tied for the Grand Prize Lino Brocka Award. The prizes were given in a grand ceremony last Aug. 12 at Onstage in Greenbelt.

"What Time is it There," a film about a watch vendor in Taipei who becomes infatuated with a woman customer leaving for Paris, was the night's biggest winner. It also took home the Kodak Vision award for technical excellence in cinematography as well as the best actor award for Lee Kang-sheng.

Sharing the best actor award with Lee was Chile's Alejandro Trejo, who won for his role as a taxi driver on a dangerous journey though the streets of Santiago in Orlando Lubbert's "Taxi Para Tres." The movie also bagged the best screenplay award.

Aoi Miyasaki won the best actress prize for her performance in Akihiko Shiota's "Harmful Insect," which tackles the moral crisis gripping Japanese teenagers. The movie also a won a special mention prize from the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (Netpac).

Netpac's best asian film honors went to Fruit Chan's "Hollywood Hong Kong" for its realistic and surrealistic view of present-day Hong Kong.

Lawrence Cordero's "Batingaw" (Bell) won for the Philippines the best short film award and Minnie Solomon Crouse's "The Case Of Wilkie Duran Monte: Toxic Chemical Victim" the best documentary award.

"Lolo's Child," the first Filipino-Canadian feature by Romeo Candido, took home the

WINNERS/ p. A29

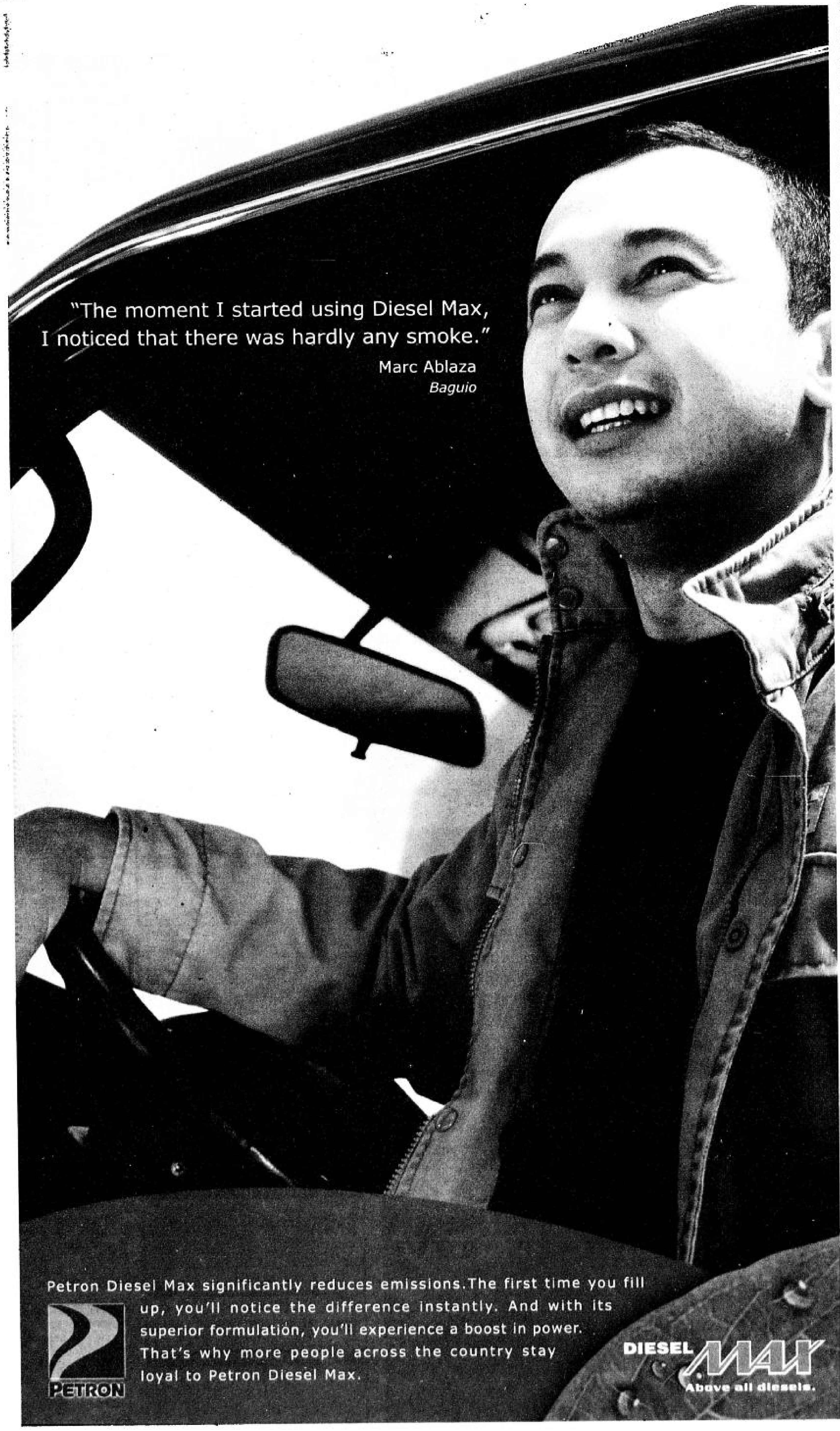
CROUSE

CORDERO

ROMEO Candido, winner of Ishmael Bernal Award for Young Cinema.

FESTIVAL director Tikoy Aguiluz

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA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B1
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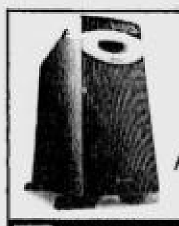

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BSP tightens rules on credit cards

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is set to issue this week a circular restraining banks and credit card companies from issuing pre-approved "plastic money" and requiring them to adopt a stricter system of screening credit card applications.

The circular, a BSP official said, would also peg credit limits of cardholders at levels based on their "take home pay or net receipts."

The official said these measures, which were already approved last week by the Monetary Board of the BSP, were aimed at addressing concerns over the rising past due credit card exposure of banks.

The BSP wants the banks and the credit card companies to strictly evaluate the paying capability of a prospective client before approving his application and setting the credit limit.

"Banks and their credit card units must ascertain first if the credit card applicants are capable of fulfilling their obligations by determining the net take-home pay of those who are employed and the net monthly receipts of those engaged in trade or business," the draft BSP circular stated. These measures are, however, less rigid compared with those considered earlier that include ordering banks to temporarily stop issuing credit cards to new clients, increasing the loan loss provisioning for problematic credit card accounts and asking banks to review their relationship with credit card companies.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said this circular was only the first of a series of stricter policies that the central bank would impose on banks' credit card operations if their problematic accounts from this business would continue to go up.

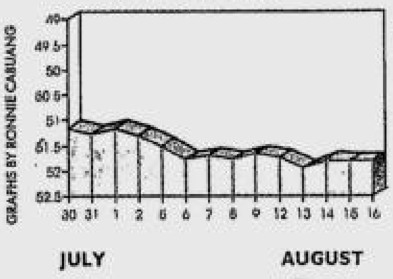
"There is an ongoing evaluation of the other measures that we may impose later. We want the banks to comply with the new circular immediately. We want to see this new method reflected in their books when we take a look

BSP/ B8

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 51.80 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 16, 2002

¥ 117.59 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 16, 2002

GOLD: $314.60/315.10

per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 16, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares seen rising this week

PHILIPPINE share prices may continue rising this week despite concerns over the performance of the US economy, analysts said Friday.

"Prices are low enough for people to start thinking of accumulating," said Spencer Yap of BPI Securities Inc.

"Maybe people are buying for the long term," he said.

He estimated that the index could trade at 1,170 to 1,130 points next week.

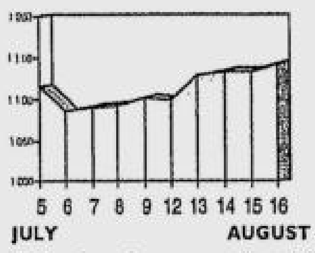
"We hope it's an upturn. For the week, the index has been up and the volumes have been improving," Yap said.

He attributed the better performance in recent days to promising first-half results by some listed companies.

However, Yap said a downturn in the US market could hit the Philippine market as well.

SHARES/ B8

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

Gov't, blue-chip firms to woo portfolio investors

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

AFTER failing to attract foreign direct investments into the country, the Department of Trade and Industry is now aiming at drawing hot money or portfolio investments into the local stock market to shatter the sense of "doom and gloom" pervading the economy.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the DTI would spearhead a roadshow in Hong Kong and Singapore to convey to prospective investors the reforms made by the government such as the Securities Regulation Code; the actions taken by the government in trimming business costs in the country, and the buying opportunities in the country's blue-chip corporations.

Roxas said the roadshow would be composed of officials of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Philippine Stock Exchange and CEOs of the country's largest corporations such as San Miguel Corp., Ayala Corp. and Manila Electric Co.

He said the DTI chose to do the roadshow in Asia's financial capitals rather than in the US or Europe not only because of the government's modest budget, but

GOV'T/ B2

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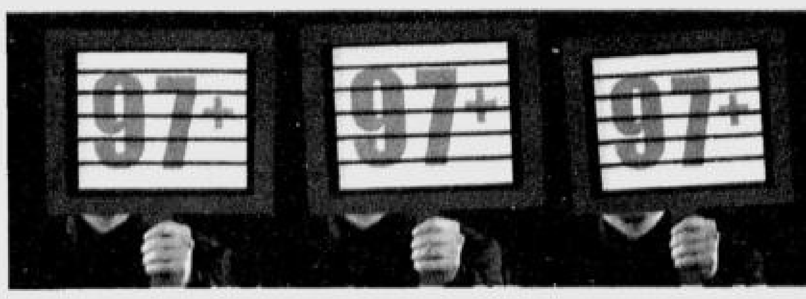

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PETRON

PNOC-EDC to sign $600-M venture in Indonesia

By R. W. Domingo

PNOC Energy Development Corp. said it was expecting to sign by end of the year a $600-million joint venture agreement with Perusahaan Pertambangan Minyak & Gas Bumi Negara (Pertamina) to build three geothermal power plants in Indonesia.

PNOC-EDC chair Sergio Apostol said the electricity that would be generated was intended for sale to PT Perusahaan, the Indonesian counterpart of the National Power Corp.

Apostol said PNOC-EDC and Pertamina identified PT Perusahaan as their primary market, which is key in getting the project off the ground.

"We plan to put up a joint venture company that will operate the three geothermal fields in North Sulawesi, Lampung and South Sumatra," he said.

The former Leyte congressman said that if the project pushed through, three power plants with an aggregate capacity of 300 megawatts could be running within four to six years.

PNOC-EDC sent a team to Indonesia in June to conduct studies on the resource potential of the areas and to do a market research for a project development plan.

Apostol said a business plan should be ready by year-end.

He said the plan was an offshoot of an agreement between the Philippine and Indonesian governments to cooperate on energy related projects.

The agreement, which was signed when President Macapagal-Arroyo visited Jakarta last year, also covers the possible supply of Indonesian coal to the Philippines on a long-term basis but at below-market prices and the importation of natural gas from Indonesia to supplement the Malampaya gas reserve.

Indonesia is believed to have the world's largest geothermal potential (estimated to be as much as 20,000 MW) but has so far developed only about 800 MW of generating capacity.

PNOC-EDC, meanwhile, expects that the tie-up with Pertamina will help the country to secure a foothold abroad as a global provider of services for geothermal development including services in drilling, resource assessment, power generation and environmental management.

PNOC-EDC owns and operates four geothermal projects that contribute 60 percent of the country's total geothermal power capacity.

These are the production fields in Leyte (640 MW), Albay-Sorsogon (150 MW), Southern Negros (192 MW) and Mt. Apo (104 MW).

Gov't ...

From page B1

also because regional investors would have a better appreciation of the Philippine situation because of their proximity to the country.

Roxas said the Philippines needed all the investments it could get whether it be hot money or direct investments just to break the sense of "doom and gloom" in the country. The combined investments registered with the Board of Investments and Philippine Economic Zone Authority dropped nearly 50 percent in the first half this year.

He said it was difficult to attract investors into the country especially if the country's stock barometer, the Phisix, was trading at very low levels.

The Phisix has lost roughly 18 percent of its value over the last 12 months and is off 70 percent from its 1997 peak. Foreign and local brokers have closed shop or streamlined their operations as value turnover withered to a fraction of what it was during the market's heyday. While all counters in the PSE are already trading at steep discounts to their book values, analysts expect the market to plumb lower depths in the coming months. .

The euphoria from the change in Malacañang occupants early last year was replaced by pessimism as the same economic and political problems that hounded the Estrada administration persisted in the Macapagal administration.

Through the road show, Roxas said he was hopeful of convincing foreign fund managers—who have reduced the share of Philippine equities in their Asia portfolio—to add more Philippine stocks in their holdings.

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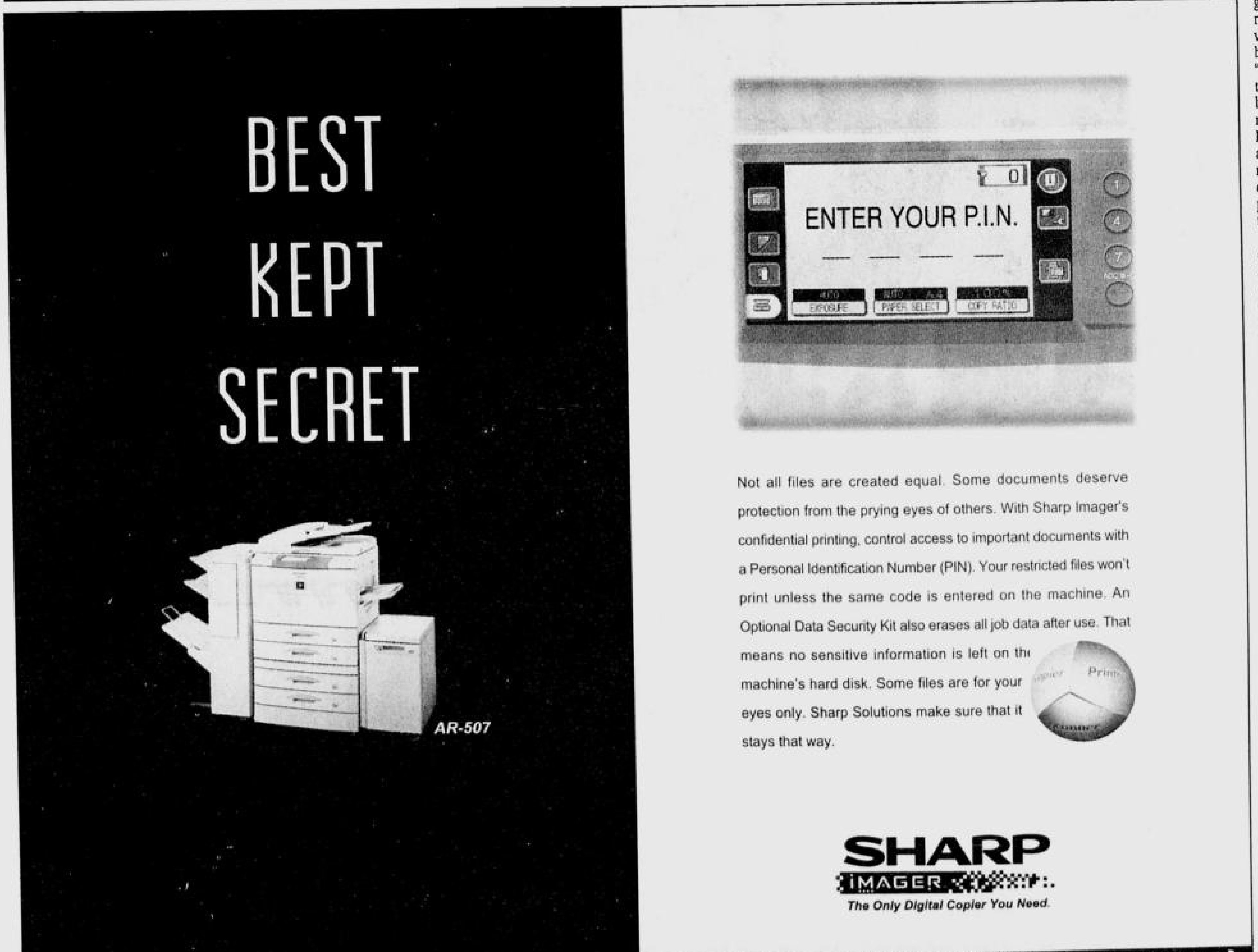

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SEC renews Picop license

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission finally renewed the license of Picop Resources Inc. for another 50 years after the company paid the SEC P12 million in filing fee.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the renewal of the license was made retroactive to March 31, the day Picop's previous license expired.

Picop claimed it had filed its application for a 50-year extension and paid P210 in fee when its license expired on March 31 this year. The commission informed the company on April 9 of the deficiency in the filing fee and gave the firm 30 days to rectify it.

Bautista explained that the renewal was made retroactive because the SEC had been negotiating with Picop on the filing fee from the time the previous license expired and the date it finally paid the full filing fee.

The PSE earlier suspended the trading of Picop for its failure to renew its corporate license.

PSE president Ernest Leung said the exchange acted based on a letter from the Securities and Exchange Commission, saying that Picop's license expired on March 31 this year.

Elena R. Torrijos

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Gov't seen raising $2.3B from foreign markets in '03

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT said it would go back to the foreign financial markets—specifically the United States, Europe and Japan—next year to raise another $2.3 billion in funds to help finance the expected P142-billion deficit during the period.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the amount would complement the $1.2 billion in program and project loans already approved by multilateral and bilateral donors and creditors for the Philippines.

Next year's foreign borrowing program is 53 percent more than this year's $1.5 billion. The higher fund-raising requirement came at a time when borrowing from the foreign markets was expected to become more difficult and expensive.

"As a general rule, we will try to maintain presence in the US, European, and Japanese markets but any borrowing will be dependent on market conditions," said Camacho.

He said the $1.2-billion registration of the Philippines with the US Securities and Exchange Commission would be used for next year's borrowings.

Today is not a good time to borrow offshore since the spreads on emerging market borrowings, including the Philippines, have increased anew. "We are not looking at anything right now or in the foreseeable future because the market conditions are not inviting."

Some months ago, Camacho and Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura believed that the Philippines had successfully "de-linked" itself from Latin American and other emerging economies.

This was the time when the Philippine bonds were a favorite among investors who were willing to buy the country's debt papers at much lower yields. But the fickle-minded market, said Camacho, had again changed its mind.

Buenaventura had warned that the country was facing a more difficult borrowing scenario in 2003 as prospects of emerging economies have worsened.

Other emerging economies, particularly Latin American, have much bigger financing problems and they are feared to crowd the Philippines out of the international money market. This, he said, could make Philippine borrowings more expensive.

Is CPP/NPA a terrorist organization?

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THERE has been a lot of brouhaha over the report that the United States has added the Communist Party of the Philippines and its military arm New People's Army to the list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO) as this term is defined in US law. Some political analysts have gone as far as questioning the necessity, even the logic, of this latest of American moves in the war against the terror. And *por Dios y por Santo*, what will now happen to the peace negotiations (which is in limbo anyway) with the rebels?

Let's lay aside names and labels. Instead, let's discuss what the CPP/NPA does today.

But first, some background. Back in 1969, Jose Maria Sison organized the CPP along Maoist lines. Mao preached that if the commies controlled the countryside, the cities would fall like overripe fruit. Thus, Sison also set up the NPA as CPP's military arm. Luis Jalandoni claims there are now 200 extortion gangs (beg your pardon, guerrilla fronts) in the country. Sison recently said there are 100. My guess, and this is just a guess, there are no more than 50.

Today, Sison and Jalandoni are in self-exile in Holland, reputedly the only commies left in all of Europe. The CPP has splintered into an alphabet soup of form organizations. There are so many that I suspect, most are just shells with nothing in them.

There is an occasional encounter between the NPA and the Army or police. But the major activity of the NPA is to raise funds.

During the run-up to an election, every candidate who wants to campaign in NPA-controlled areas must pay a "permit to campaign fee." The candidates slain in last year's elections probably balked at paying the fee.

No business is spared. The NPA wanted to shake down a Red Chinese road construction company in Bicol. The Red Chinese said, "Why are you doing this to us? We are also communists." The NPA torched a grader. The Chinese paid. An Australian firm was looking into the feasibility of reopening a gold and copper mine. The NPA asked for P1.5 million up front for a "permit to operate" and 10 percent of the monthly payroll. The Australians promptly left and have never been back.

But the NPA's bread and butter are the "revolutionary taxes" extorted at gunpoint from the very poorest of our poor that the commies are supposed to be fighting for. Everything that moves and grows is taxed 10 percent: rice and corn, vegetables and fruits, livestock and poultry, root crops and forest products, fresh and salt water fish and shellfish, coconuts and copra and even *sari-sari* store sales. Finally, the NPA extorts 10 percent from—get this—barrio teachers' salaries.

Secretary Golez estimates that, from 1999 to 2002, the NPA collected P549 million. The figure is certainly inflated but it gives you a clear idea of how much blood is extorted from the distant barrios.

There is no need to count the bodies slain by the NPA. In a terrorist regime, bodies are not hanged from every other coconut tree. In fact, the terror that grips the barrio folk gives a mistaken notion of peace in the countryside.

Luis Jalandoni says the taxes are contributions to the revolutionary movement from the peasants. He lies. The taxes are the main reason why the barrio folk continue to grovel in abject poverty.

Where does the money go? It certainly does not stay in the barrios. There is nothing there to spend it on. The money ends up in Manila. Probably, most of it is wired to Holland. The money left here is spent on full-page ads and to get into the various TV talk shows. It is spent on streamers, red flags, effigies, bullhorns and pocket money for demonstrators. And, in last year's elections, a huge sum was spent on the successful, high profile, nationwide campaign on Bayan Muna. Where is the CPP's national treasury? For all I know, it could be in one of the posh villages in Makati.

Now, will someone please explain to me why Colin Powell should not have tagged the CPP/NPA as a Foreign Terrorist Organization?

Traders oppose ban on scrap metal exports

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SCRAP metal traders from the Visayas and Mindanao warned the government against imposing an export ban on their trade because it would mean losses of $12 million (P600 million) in their foreign exchange earnings yearly and the dislocation of thousands of Filipino workers.

In a position paper submitted to the Board of Investments, Visayas and Mindanao scrap dealers said an export ban being pushed by the Big 5 steel makers in the country, led by Cathay Pacific Steel Corp., would deprive them of their dollar earnings as they would be forced to sell their products only to Luzon smelters.

The Visayas and Mindanao scrap dealers noted that Luzon has never been their traditional market since most of their wares were bought by National Steel Corp. for its Iligan factory and by Bacnotan Steel in Batangas, both have piers that made them accessible to barges. Both plants, however, are closed due to losses and mounting debt expenses prompting the Visayas and Mindanao dealers to sell their wares overseas.

They said an export ban would force them to sell their scrap metals to Luzon smelters located inland, which they claimed was not viable because of the prohibitive freight costs.

"Without any feasible local market, the scrap metal industry in the Visayas and Mindanao which is totally dependent on the export market will collapse due to the export ban," the Visayas and Mindanao dealers said.

These dealers employed thousands of Filipinos because of the labor-intensive nature of collecting scrap metal and have invested in heavy equipment in the past few years to provide their buyers internationally accepted quality scrap metals. They said the Visayas and Mindanao scrap dealers generated more than P500 million in yearly export earnings.

They warned that an export ban would only benefit the Big 5 steel makers because it would lead to an artificial oversupply in scrap metal prices and depressed prices.

Capasco is leading the country's steel manufacturers in pushing for a ban on the

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Brown-out

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE FIRST Pacific board is calling a special meeting today in Hong Kong, with or without its executive chair, Manuel V. Pangilinan.

MVP apparently knows that such a meeting had been scheduled, since he flew into the territory over the weekend.

Despite MVP clearly siding with the rebellion of First Pacific subsidiaries Metro Pacific and PLDT, parent First Pacific seems to have been holding its punches against its prodigal executive.

The speculation in the cocktail circuit here is that MVP has got his principals by the...since he supposedly has proof that the Suhartos still have secret shareholdings in the Hong Kong-based holding company.

Given the Suhartos' continuing problem with the new Indonesian government, the First Pacific principals, the Salims of Indonesia, are, according to the theory, not too keen on engaging their ex-fair-haired boy in a full-blown legal battle since that course of action would possibly inflict more damage to themselves rather than to their intended target.

And that is why First Pacific executive director Ronald Brown and spokesperson Rebecca Brown have been reduced to whining and leaking their growing discontent with MVP through the Philippine press.

Travails with Opus Dei

THEY may have lost a fortune in the Opus Dei-financed CIPI investment bank, but there is no stopping the local Opus Dei from making their presence felt in the canonization of their founder, Monsignor Josemaria Escriva.

Already, the Philippine Embassy in Rome has been acting like a de-facto travel agency, but Ambassador to Italy Philippe Lhuillier is not complaining, since majority of the referrals are from friends.

The canonization is set for Oct. 6, and the five-star hotels in Rome, knowing that the Opus Dei sets have money, have already priced their best rooms to nearly $500-a-day.

But due to devaluation and the CIPI disaster, majority of the local Opus Deis have been scrimping, opting for $75-room in suburban hotels, about an hour's drive from the city. Lhuillier said the embassy has already blocked off 450 rooms for the Philippine delegation.

Even Opus Dei-controlled schools like the University of Asia and the Pacific, Woodrose, and Southridge are sending student delegations to the once-in-a-lifetime event.

Expect Jose Cuisia and Ramon del Rosario Jr. to be there, possibly even praying Our Father and holding hands with ex-Sen. Francisco Tatad. Ad executive Javier Calero is also going, and is even willing to turn whatever is left in his wallet to help out CIPI's Bernardo Villegas and Vicente Atillano.

Tony's new toast

EX-Asiaweek bureau chief Antonio Lopez has decided to strike out on his own.

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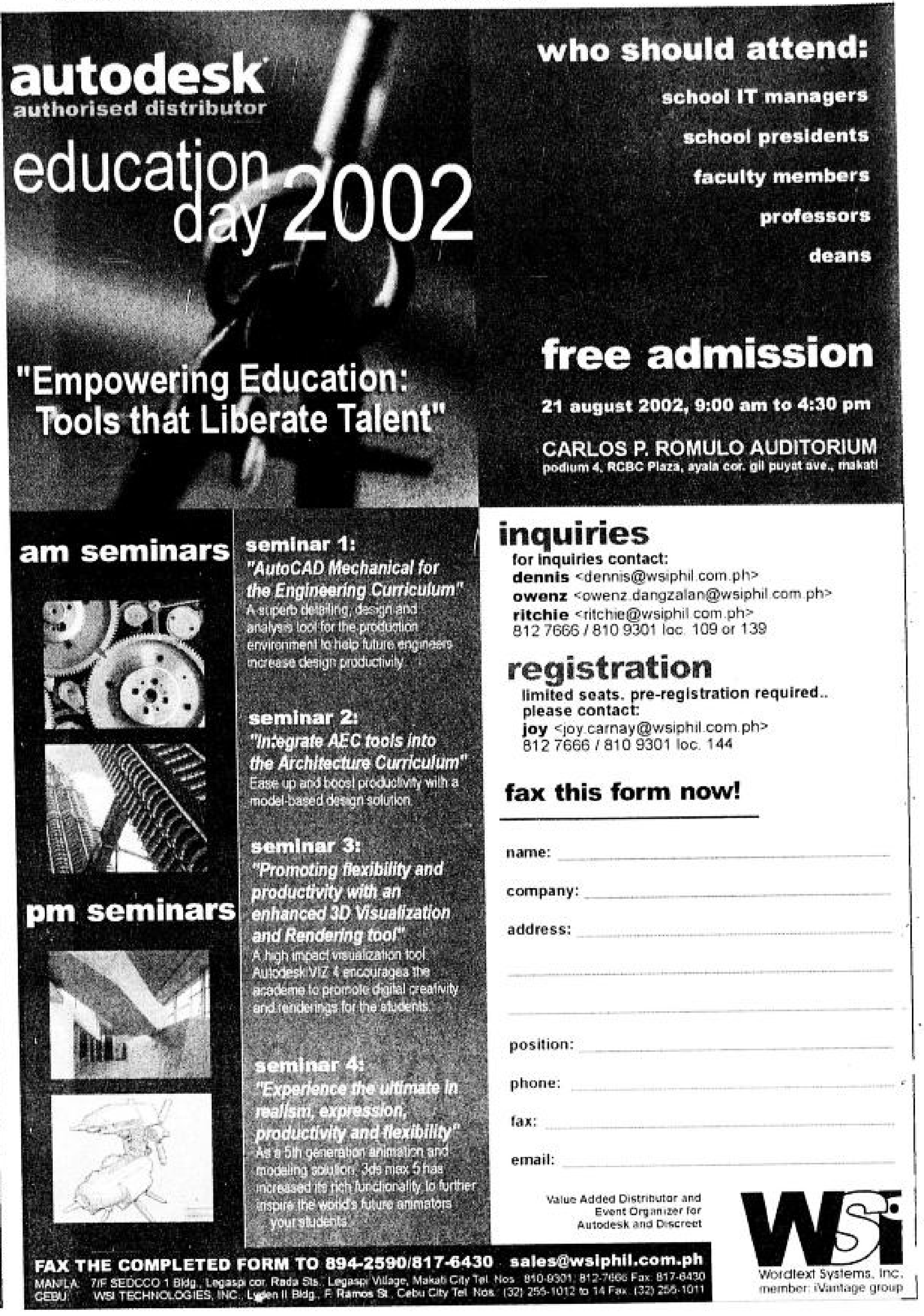

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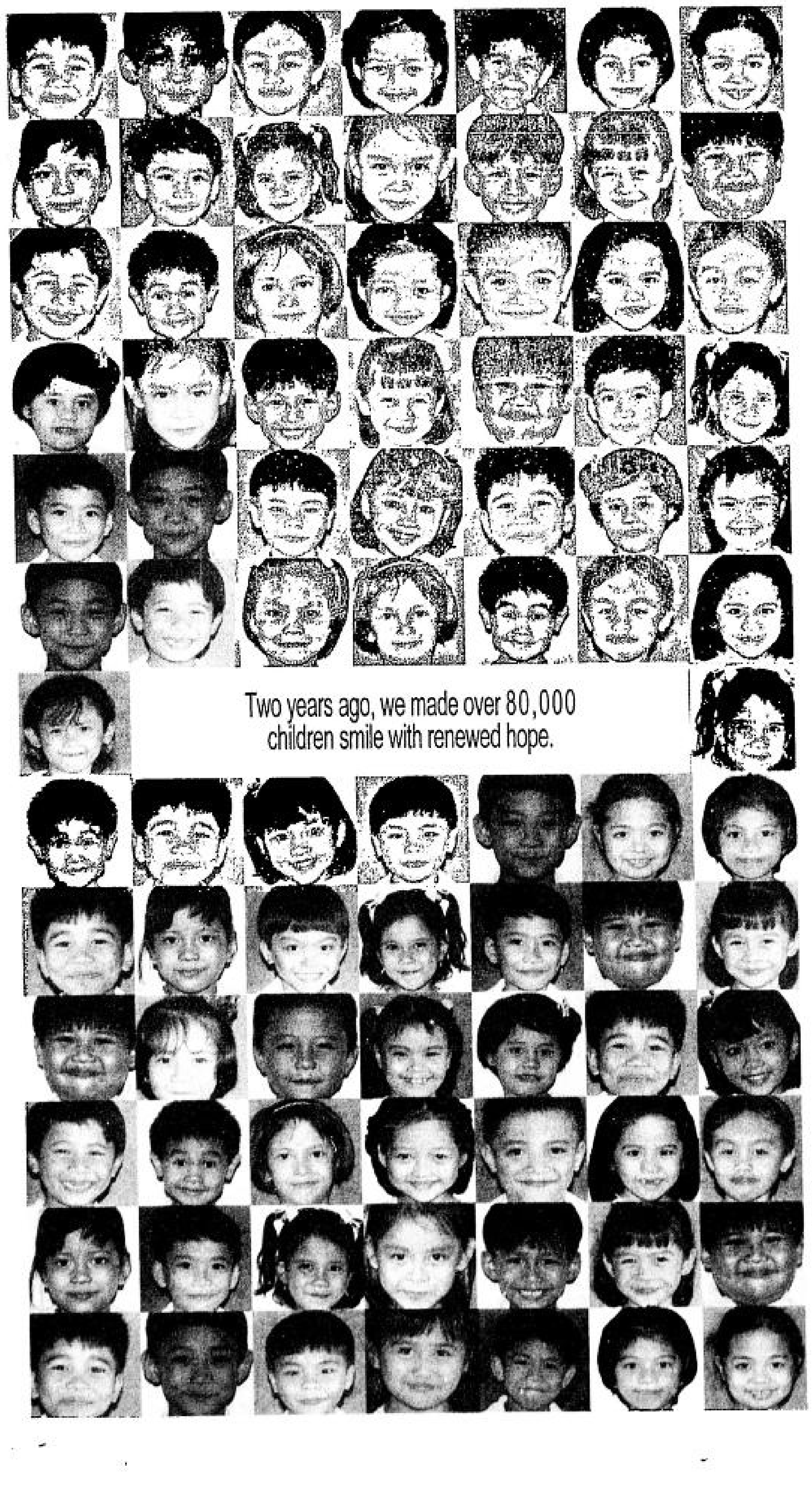
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children's hour
Every hour is time well spent.

Globe makes it easy for you to help. Send your Txt 4 D Children. To register, type Reg <space> name <space> address, then send to 2303. Upon registration, text in keyword: DONATE to 2303. Proceeds will go to the Children's Hour project. As a way ofthanking you, Globe will also be giving away free phone kits to lucky texters. See print ads for details.

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Traders . . .

From page B4

export of scrap metal in order to force junk dealers to sell their goods only to local players. They claimed that they are in short supply of scrap metal because dealers were exporting this commodity to other countries mainly because of the high prices.

WELCOME
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Monark Equipment Opens its CAT Rental Store along the South Expressway. The CAT Rental Store is a one-stop shop which offers the widest range of Caterpillar equipment and other top brands - from large earth movers, telescopic cranes and generators, to compact skid steer loaders, to the latest in aerial work platforms and specialized tools. Formally opening the store last July 26, 2002 were from left Martin Bryant, Monark President, Richard Garstin, Caterpillar District Manager, Mark Shoeneman, Caterpillar Region Manager for Asia Pacific & Australia and Jose Antonio Banson, Monark Chairman.

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*Valid 01 August - 30 September 2002 departures • Price excludes travel taxes, airport fees and insurance surcharges • Reservations will be through travel agents or SIA • Payments will be through VISA or Mastercard and passengers must go to the SIA Ticket Office for ticket issuance and Palm m515 redemption • Prices subject to change without prior notice • Other conditions apply

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, August 16, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	15.75	16	15.75	16	312,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	45.5	45	45	399,600
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	3,000
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28.5	28.5	28	28	596,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	36.5	37	36.5	36.5	317,200
Philippine National Bank	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	100
Phil. Savings Bank	26	26	26	26	1,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10	10.75	10	10.75	2,900
Security Bank Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	19	19	18.75	18.75	11,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.16	1.2	1.16	1.2	94,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.32	30,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1210	1215	1210	1215	1,680
Sun Life Financial Serv.	935	940	935	935	1,890
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.75	22	21.75	22	28,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.55	120,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	495	495	495	495	100
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.032	0.033	0.032	0.033	1,000,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	100,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	24,000
Piltel	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,380,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	300	302.5	295	300	130,190
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	64,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18.75	19	18.75	19	82,700
Manila Electric Co. B	29.5	30	29.5	30	1,000,400
Petron Corp.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.7	574,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.74	1.76	1.74	1.74	88,384,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.48	2.55	2.48	2.55	1,943,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.67	2,070,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	85,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	300,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	1,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	56,200
San Miguel Corp. A	49	49	48.5	49	1,184,500
San Miguel Corp. B	54	54.5	54	54	308,000
Universal Robina Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	13,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	4,280,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.5	846,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.28	2.3	2.28	2.3	31,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	320,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12.25	12.75	12.25	12.5	861,500
Ionics. Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	17,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.6	0.61	330,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	1,710,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	70,000
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	120,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	260,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	300,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22	22	22	22	349,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	8,055,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.21	1,330,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.16	0.16	9,820,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.92	1.96	4,250,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.78	1.8	70,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	70,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	500,000
SM Development Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6.1	6	6.1	5,116,000
MINING					
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	10,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	9,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	920,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	.0110	.012	.011	.012	1,200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	.0028	.0028	.0026	.0026	220,000,000
Pacifica	.0120	.012	.012	.012	900,000
South China Resources Inc.	.6000	.7	.6	.7	270,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,778,570	55,831,265.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	172,531,990	337,933,200.00
PRO	29,741,000	90,996,800.00
Mining	19,920,000	445,800.00
OIL	222,370,000	773,600.00
GRAND TOTALS :	446,341,560	485,980,665.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	451.55	UP 0.09
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,555.10	UP 15.27
PRO	547.18	UP 8.39
Mining	1,090.61	UNCH 0.00
OIL	1.54	UP 0.07
All Shares Index	649.17	UP 4.67
Composite	1,143.57	UP 10.48

NO. OF ADVANCES: 40; NO. OF DECLINES: 10; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 24; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 74 NO. OF TRADES: 1,445

CURRENCIES

Aug. 16, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.018226	1.000000	51.8240
Japan	Yen	0.008678	0.008523	0.4417
United Kingdom	Pound	1.562774	1.534800	79.5395
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130544	0.128207	6.6442
Switzerland	Franc	0.683648	0.671411	34.7952
Canada	Dollar	0.653086	0.641396	33.2397
Singapore	Dollar	0.583177	0.572738	29.6816
Australia	Dollar	0.553986	0.544070	28.1959
Bahrain	Dinar	2.701009	2.652661	137.4715
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.271520	0.266660	13.8194
Brunei	Dollar	0.580881	0.570483	29.5647
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000115	0.000113	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024365	0.023929	1.2401
UAE	Dirham	0.277242	0.272279	14.1106
Korea	Won	0.000865	0.000850	0.0441
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.982100	50.8964
Argentina	Real	0.280503	0.275482	14.2766
Brazil	Real	0.318694	0.312989	16.2203
Denmark	Kroner	0.134597	0.132188	6.8505
India	Rupee	0.020982	0.020606	1.0679
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.267990	0.263193	13.6397
Mexico	New Peso	0.102705	0.100867	5.2273
New Zealand	Dollar	0.475318	0.466810	24.1920
Norway	Kroner	0.134622	0.132212	6.8518
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017170	0.016863	0.8739
South Africa	Rand	0.096168	0.094447	4.8946
Sweden	Kroner	0.108090	0.000850	0.0441
Syria	Pound	0.019810	0.106155	5.5014
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030323	0.029780	1.5433
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000743	0.000730	0.0378

Cocktales

From page B5

Lopez is coming out with BizNewsAsia, a weekly business and political newsmagazine, first week of September.

Funded by unnamed "tycoons" (Lopez's own description), the notebook-sized weekly is "pro-business, pro-economy, and pro-Philippines."

Asiaweek had 25-30 percent of its circulation base in the Philippines, before its US parent Time decided to shut down the regional weekly. Ironically, at its end-2001 closure, Asiaweek was outselling Time magazine in the Philippines, Malaysia, and Singapore.

Lopez apparently plans to bring the putative magazine regional; hence, the choice of name.

Heard through the grapevine

THE SMALLER pre-need companies are grumbling over the special assessments being charged by their association to fund a crisis PR campaign in view of the trust fund problem of its biggest member, College Assurance Plan.

Under the PR plan, federation president Juan Miguel Vasquez has tacked on a P600,000/month media relations budget, to be disbursed by a P150,000/month PR consultant.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

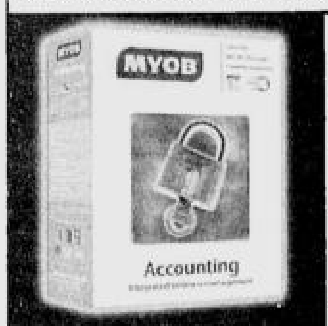
UDB asks court to replace receiver

AT LEAST 50 stockholders, employees and depositors of closed Unitrust Development Bank have asked the Makati City Regional Trial Court to replace state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. as receiver of the thrift bank in light of the government firm's alleged "abuse of discretion and partiality."

Led by former bank president Francisco Yuseco, the UDB group filed a petition Friday seeking the appointment of a new receiver and the approval of its rehabilitation plan. In the same petition, the group asked the court to suspend the bank's debt payments.

Under the proposed rehabilitation plan, either of the Yuseco group's two foreign partners, First Federal Bank of Taiwan or NHI Capital Fund of Irvine California, will pump in P285 million into UDB allowing depositors to get their money immediately or as soon as the bank

UDB/ B9



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ROOF SHINGLES
(Time-out for Questions and Answers)

Are shingles suited to Philippine weather?

A solid question. Here's another: ***"Asphalt shingles work well in cold countries like the U.S.A., but will they perform in our typhoon-prone climate?"***

Answer: Shingles cover more than 60% of residential roofs in USA. You find them not only in the cold northern regions but also in the Southeast (Florida, Georgia, South Carolina) where hurricanes with strength of 200 kms/hr or more are frequent visitors. They are also number one roofing in the Mississippi Valley, the country of tornadoes.

Another valid question: ***"But won't asphalt shingles melt and warp in our hot summer?"***

Answer: The USA is a cold country in the north but a very hot desert country in the south (Texas, New Mexico, Arizona) beating our climate with their 38°C to 41°C summer day temperature.

Then, this question: ***"But why do we hear so much about shingles' poor perfomance in our weather?"***

Answer: Because of the fear of the unknown. Because the workmanship of poorly-trained installers negate the superior value of shingles. Because asphalt shingles are not distinguished from wood shingles which warp and leak. Because giant G.I. roof sheet manufacturers can't bear the idea of losing.

Final question: *How can we get more information on roofs?*

Answer: Call us and get free reading materials. There's a lot more in our treasury of practical knowledge.

Better choices for better products. For a better life.

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2nd National Conference
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August 28-29, 2002

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A new concept in exhibits, the "*Market Place*" will feature sponsors and exhibitors in a unique café-style environment allowing participants to have one-on-one discussions and expand product awareness through product sampling and demonstrations.

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Del Monte
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4 Ways to Register:
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eMAIL info.ecr@creative-synergy.com
FAX (632) 8903590
For further inquiries, please call (632) 8975011 to 16 and look for Arni.

conference program

DAY 1 August 28, 2002 (Wednesday)

7:30-8:30 am	Registration
8:30-8:45 am	National Anthem / Opening AVP / Welcome Remarks *(Conference Chairperson, Marie Franco of Johnson & Johnson Phils.)*
8:45-9:00 am	Opening Remarks *(Co-Chairs of ECR Phils., Jess Dinglasan of JDH Phils. and Howard Belton of Unilever Phils.)*
9:00-9:45 am	Keynote Speech: Winning Consumers on a Global Perspective *(Antony Burgmans, CEO of Unilever N.V. and Chairman of the Global Commerce Initiative)*
9:45-10:30 am	The Philippine Retail Industry in the Midst of Global Changes *(Gladys de Veyra, Executive Director for Retail Measurement Services, AC Nielsen)*
10:30-10:50 am	Break
10:50-10:55 am	AVP on The Consumer: "Give Me What I Want!"
10:55-11:40 am	Understanding Consumers as Shoppers *(Marie Lee, General Manager of Taylor, Nelson, Sofres)*
11:40-12:20 pm	Winning the Shopper in My Store *(Catherine Tantoco, VP for Merchandising and Manuel Alberto, VP for Operations of Shopwise)*
12:20-1:30 pm	Lunch - Sponsored by Oracle "Electronic Supply Chain Management in the Consumer Products Industry" *(Prep Palacios, e-Business SCM Solutions Lead Consultant)*
1:30-2:15 pm	State of the Industry on Product Availability *(Ed Roa, Managing Director of AC Nielsen)*
2:15-3:00 pm	Efficient Unit Load Concept: Unitize and Standardize *(Abner Villahermosa, AVP and Packaging Technology Manager for San Miguel Packaging Products)*
3:00-3:20 pm	Break
3:20-4:20 pm	Tracks 1: Category Management & Solution Centers *(Joan Lim, Business Development Manager of Waltermart and Carl Cruz, General Customer Development Manager for National Accounts of Unilever Phils.)* 2: Corporate Versus Category Refillers: A Case Study *(Jesus Dilao, VP for Personnel and Store Operations of Rustan's Supermarket, Michael Ong, Modern Trade Customer Team Logistics Manager of Procter & Gamble)* 3: EUL and Slip Sheets on Cross Border Trading *(Ma. Lourdes Santos, Supply Chain Director of Johnson & Johnson Phils.)*
4:20-5:20 pm	Tracks 4: Modular Shelf Replenishment *(Gloria Cudala, AVP for Operations of Super Value, Inc. and Samuel Sih, Area Sales Director for Monde Nissin)* 5: Efficiency in Supply Chain Through Efficient Unit Load Application *(Eugenio S. Florendo, Distribution Center Manager of Procter & Gamble)* 6: Trade Returns: Current Practices and Future Trends *(Arvi Cudala, AVP for Operations Retail Support for Super Value, Inc., Dina Pilapil, Operations Director of JDH Phils., and Charmaine Cortez, Customer Service Manager of Nestlé Phils.)*

DAY 2 August 29, 2002 (Thursday)

8:00-8:15 am	Recap of Day 1 *(Co-Chair of the ECR Phils. Executive Committee, Rudi Oviedo, Modern Trade Team Leader of Procter & Gamble)*
8:15-9:00 am	Improving Revenue Through Supply Chain *(Matt McDougall, VP of Enterprise Application Integration of ASIA Pacific, Sterling Commerce)*
9:00-9:45 am	Electronic Peso Clearing System: A Funds Settlement Alternative *(Frankie Yap, President of Philippine Clearing House Corp.)*
9:45-10:00 am	Break
10:00-11:00 am	ECR Works for Us! *(Raina Co-Sy, Marketing Manager of Suy Sing Commercial Corporation and Philip Mulawin, Operations Manager of Liberty Commercial Center)*
11:00-12:30 pm	CEO Panel Discussion *Moderator: Ms. Mary Ann V. Capistrano, Chair, Dept. of Quantitative Methods of the John Gokongwei School of Management, Ateneo de Manila University* • *Mr. Diosdado Salvador, President of Johnson & Johnson ASEAN* • *Mr. Nelson Uy, General Manager of La Nueva Supermarket* • *Mr. Alex Castillo, Chief Executive Officer of Del Monte Phils.* • *Ms. Robina Gokongwei-Pe, Chief Executive Officer of Robinsons Supermarket* • *Mr. Wilson Lim, Chief Executive Officer of Waltermart Supermarket* • *Mr. Paul Lageweg, President and Managing Director for Philippine and Vietnam Operations of Kimberly Clark*
12:30-2:00 pm	Lunch - Sponsored by DEXION "Realtime Distribution System" *(Frank Johnstone, General Sales Director for Asia, DEXION)*
2:00-3:00 pm	Tracks 7: Statement-Based Billing System: An Innovative Way of Collection *(Rania de Guzman, Customer Development IT, Administration & Demand Planning Manager of Unilever Phils.)* 8: Going-to-Market Electronically *(Rob Henson of Logistics Bureau)* 9: Trends in Materials Handling & Warehousing *(Carsten Spiegelberg, Senior Manager of Schaefer)*
3:00-3:20 pm	Break
3:20-4:20 pm	Global Powers of Retailing *(Helen Passingham-Hughes of Taylor, Nelson, Sofres)*
4:20-5:20 pm	Surviving in the Midst of Globalization *(K. Atano and K. Saowaluck Veerarattanarq of Ngeesoon Superstore in Thailand)*
5:20-5:45 pm	Closing Remarks *(Jess Dinglasan and Howard Belton, Co-Chairs of ECRP)*

How to transmogrify our economy

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

ON Monday, the President declared war on the NPA; on Tuesday, she sent out peace feelers. On Tuesday, she decided to import slot machines to spite the jueteng lords; on Thursday, she declared it immoral but not illegal. I took it upon myself to do an in-depth study of the implications of importing millions of slot machines. I checked and rechecked my calculations and extrapolations, but as I am not an economist, I submitted them to my dear friend, Sir Alan Greenspan. After all, he calls me every month asking whether to cut interest rates, or not, so he owes me a favor. He confirmed everything I am about to write, so you can take it as being correct.

My unreliable mole in the government told me that two aircraft carriers and one typhoid carrier have been pulled out of the Persian Gulf and sent to San Francisco. An 85,000-ton supertanker, which has just discharged its cargo of crude oil in Los Angeles, has been told to stay put. Each of these three boats will bring 100,000 slot machines to the Philippines, one to Manila, one to Cebu and one to Davao. This will take about a month, but by the end of the year, there should be close to a million in use.

Families selected by Pagcor at random will be given a slot machine and told to insert P1 coins until they lose P25, at which point they must stop. As the machines pay out 80 percent, this means that each family will have to pull the lever an average of 125 times. Sometimes, they will lose quickly and sometimes they may have a lucky streak, but they must play on until they lose P25. Anyone who fails to comply will be charged with economic sabotage and either sentenced to death or deported to Iraq.

We have 80 million Filipinos who are eligible, but obviously we do not want to include children or the elderly, so we will concentrate on just 20 million young people. When all the machines have been imported, Pagcor will collect P25 a day from every family and remit the proceeds to the Treasury. Allowing for holy days, this amounts to P9,000 per person and multiplying this by 20 million, brings in P180 billion a year. This is more than enough to cover the budget deficit, and P22 billion more than next year's deficit, so there will be no more worries about borrowing more money abroad.

The money that the government does collect—about P100 billion—can be used to alleviate poverty, save the street children, supply iron and iodine to undernourished infants, provide cheap medicine for the poor, and low-cost housing for the homeless.

There are other less obvious benefits. One is that pulling the lever 125 a night will increase upper body strength, reduce weight, lower cholesterol and prevent the husband from drinking beer with his pals. Second, both husband and wife will be so exhausted that they will be too tired for sex. This will bring down the population growth rate, which is the highest in Asia and threatens massive poverty in years to come. By 2060, there will be 300 million Filipinos.

By 2006, the government will have balanced the budget by conventional means, so they can use this surplus to pay off the P3 trillion in debts that we have bestowed on our children. The result will be a massive appreciation of the peso, probably back to 7 to the dollar, which it was in 1980. Of course, our export market will be destroyed, and it will be too expensive for tourists to come here. Also, OFWs will no longer find it profitable to work abroad.

But look at the benefits. We will be able to import all our rice form Thailand and Vietnam for only P2 a kilo and sell it on the rolling stores at P2.50. What a boon for the poor. No more hunger. Gasoline will cost only P2.50 a liter, so jeepneys will charge P1, buses P2 and taxis P5. The price of food will fall because of lower transportation costs, and we will have deflation. All imported products, including drugs, will cost one-seventh of the current price, so everyone will take vitamins and remain healthy.

The Philippines will become Utopia, and the humble peso could end up as the world's most wanted currency. All this is possible, only if we go ahead with importing slot machines.

The PSE took a vote on whether to extend trading but the results will not help them make a decision. Thirty-nine percent voted to close at noon, 37 percent voted to extend trading until 4 p.m.; 24 percent did not answer, implying that they did not care whether we opened or not. To promote public interest in the stock market, the PSE has improved its website PSE.org.ph.

HOW/ B10

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Shares . . .

From page B1

The possible release next week of figures expected to show that the budget deficit ceiling had been exceeded would also have a negative effect on the market, he added.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 41.2 points or 3.7 percent over the week to 1,143.57.

Average daily volume during the week rose to 264.86 million shares worth P346.12 million from 219.75 million shares worth P290.14 million in the previous week.

"Sentiment on both local as well as global stock markets have recently been supported by prospects of a possible US interest rate cut in the coming months, as reportedly signaled by the US Federal Reserve, to boost growth in the US," Equitable PCI Bank chief strategist Michael Ricafort said.

Ricafort noted that the last week's rebound had allowed the Phisix to trim its total loss since the start of the year to 2.1 percent.

"Any breach above 1,137 this week could indicate that the bottom has already firmed up for now. Initial resistance level is set at 1,150," Ricafort said.

Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas agreed that the market could rebound this week as bargain hunters start picking up oversold stocks.

Roxas said the crackdown on the cash flows of communist insurgents and the forthcoming international road show by the PSE to attract foreign investors should also boost sentiment this week.

Stock market portal 2tradeasia.com also said that share prices might continue to trend higher this week, as most "risk variables" have already been factored in.

"In the meantime, we expect volatile shifts between equities and fixed income instruments, as investors seek potentially higher returns that can match their investment horizons," it said.

"It would be prudent to focus on tradable core stocks that have languished at attractive support levels for now, as these are usually first to merit institutional fund managers' attention as soon as sentiment recovers," it noted.

Among last week's big gainers were: Ayala Land Inc., whose share price was up by 12.7 percent after disclosing plans to raise more cash from selling non-core property assets; and, International Container Terminal Services Inc. which rose 5.4 percent after reporting strong first-half earnings. ***Reports from Doris Dumlao and AFP***

BSP . . .

From page B1

at their performance again," said Reyes.

He said the BSP might impose more rigid policies on the banks' credit card operations if it would continue receiving customers' complaints on the high rates imposed on credit card use.

During the first quarter, the past due portion of the banks' P47.093 billion receivables from the credit card business rose to nearly one-fourth of the amount from 21.6 percent of P47.76 billion in receivables in the fourth quarter of 2001.

Reyes said the past due portion should only range between 15 and 17 percent, comparable to the non-performing loan ratio of commercial banks that stood at 18 percent to total loan portfolio as of June.

Currently, 17 big banks and 11 thrift banks are engaged in the credit card business, mostly through tie-ups with big names such as Mastercard, Visa, Diners'.

The new circular, said Reyes, would prevent the past due loans of banks from their credit card business from further increasing.

He said under evaluation was the plan of the BSP to impose a higher loan loss provisioning for the bad credit card accounts.

Foreign banks normally set aside a 400 percent provisioning for credit card loans because they usually write-off unpaid debts after 90 days. Reyes said local banks allow for a longer reckoning period of 180 days.

"We have to be stricter on these loans because they are without collateral," he stressed.

Also being planned was to impose a moratorium on the establishment by banks of separate credit card companies, and the regulation of the franchising agreements between banks and credit card firms.

The central bank official noted that proper credit investigation, which is hardly done at present due to stiff competition, was still the key to prudent banking operations.

Because of aggressive competition and rising bad loans, banks impose higher interest rates of about 3.25 percent monthly or about 40 percent yearly on credit cards as opposed to the lending rate of 12 to 15 percent yearly.

Reyes believed that credit card rates were exorbitant because most credit cardholders subsidize delinquent borrowers.

Higher deficit will not affect rates–Camacho

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT will be able to keep interest rates low even if the budget deficit this year exceeds its target of P130 billion, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said on Friday.

Camacho told reporters that there would be no change in the government's low-interest rates policy even if the deficit hits P156 billion by year's end.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura has said that from a monetary standpoint, the central bank's key rates will be unaffected even if the deficit goes 10- to 20-percent above the P130-billion target.

"If we exceed the deficit by 10 to 20 percent this year, I don't think it will affect the domestic interest rates. In the first place, we have fully financed our requirements this year, and the P63-billion proceeds of the retail treasury bonds gave us enough flexibility," Camacho said.

The budget deficit rose to P119.7 billion in the first six months of the year alone, already 91 percent of the year-end target.

In July, the deficit has reportedly reached between P126 billion and P130 billion.

The 91-day treasury bill rate, which mirrors the government's cost of borrowing and influences banks' lending rates, stood 5 percent during a public auction two weeks ago, still below the 7- to 8-percent range set for 2002 to 2003.

News of a growing fiscal problem are being used by the market to put pressure on the local currency and to bring local interest rates up.

A rising deficit problem usually leads to higher interest rates as investors require better returns for their placements in the government's treasury bills and bonds corresponding to the risk that such a fiscal gap implies.

Camacho noted, however, that the government had safely raised its requirements for the year, anticipating a possible overshooting of the targets.

"If the deficit would be 50 percent more than the target, I think I would no longer have a job in the government," said Camacho.

The 20-percent leeway is close to the P158-billion to P162-billion estimate of the economic team's technical working group of the emerging deficit trend for the year.

He said that for this year, the government had programmed to raise only P10 billion to P12 billion from the three- and five-year retail bonds issued in June. But the debt papers were six times oversubscribed and gave the government P62.9 billion in proceeds.

In fact, the Bureau of Treasury has already announced that it plans to reduce the size of the bimonthly treasury bill auction to P5 billion from the current volume of P9 billion starting the fourth quarter of the year.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said he planned to instead issue as much as P4 billion in seven-year bonds over the next three months to accommodate the market's growing appetite for longer-term government borrowing.

"Clearly, the market preference is for longer tenors so we may instead issue seven-year bonds in lieu of the short-term treasury bills that we would cut," said the treasurer.

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Trade dep't backs DOF position to retain 100% auto tax ceiling

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is supporting the Department of Finance's move to retain the 100-percent tax ceiling in the proposed automotive tax reforms to boost the government's diminishing revenues.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said maintaining the 100-percent ceiling should have no effect on sales of vehicle assemblers because luxury car buyers would be paying the same rate under the planned tax reforms.

The new tax structure based on the shift from engine- to value-based taxation is 3 percent for vehicles worth below P601,000; 10 percent for those worth P1 million and below; 25 percent for vehicles worth P1.5 million and below; 40 percent for those worth P2 million and below; and 100 percent for those worth more than P2 million.

The current tax rates are 15 percent for vehicles with displacements of up to 1,600 cc for gas engines and 1,800 cc for diesel engines; 35 percent for those with two-liter gas engines and 2.3-liter diesel engines; and, 100 percent for those with 2.7-liter gas engines and 3-liter diesel engines.

Roxas said the 100-percent tax ceiling should boost the government's revenues.

The government has reportedly reached its full-year P130 billion deficit target with still six months to go.

Truck Manufacturers Association president Elizabeth Lee claimed that the finance department's move caught truck makers by surprise because their past discussions with the government had been based on a tax schedule with a 25-percent ceiling.

Smart Money, Sun sign m-commerce export deal

SMART Money Holdings Corp., the mobile commerce arm of cellular giant Smart Communications Inc., has teamed up with Sun Microsystems Inc. to export its mobile commerce platform to wireless operators abroad.

The partnership will result in an integrated marketing and engineering support program for the licensing of the "m-commerce" platform abroad.

Smart Money chief executive Ian Wilson said in a statement last week that the team-up with Sun would boost the marketability of Smart Money's m-commerce platform offering and would help generate more interest from international telecommunications firms.

He said one of Smart Money's applications—Smart Money—had already gained wide acceptance in the Philippines and had even reaped prestigious international awards.

With the newly formed alliance, the chance of the platform gaining as wide an acceptance abroad would be improved, he added.

"Sun has proven international track record in delivering technical support services. Our mobile commerce platform has been running and has been tested on Sun's systems—solid proof that we are comfortable in pursuing these joint efforts," Wilson said.

Sun Microsystems Philippines Inc. president and managing director Cynthia Mamon added that Sun was confident of the success of the partnership.

"Just like Sun Microsystems technologies, Smart's mobile solutions have been recognized locally and internationally for being innovative. We are looking forward to extend this partnership and its success further," she said.

Even before Smart Money was founded last year, Smart already had a partnership with Sun. In 1999, the wireless operator acquired hardware and software systems from the computer firm.

"To date, Smart has the largest E10000 Sun installation in the Philippines and one of the first to utilize the new high-end workgroup server SunFire V880s. We use them in all of our mobile commerce systems, including those deployed in our nine partner banks," Smart's mobile commerce group head Alex Ibasco said. *Abigail L. Ho*

UDB asks court to replace receiver

From page B7

resumes operations.

"Before Christmas, depositors should have been paid," Yuseco said regarding the proposed rehabilitation plan.

The Yuseco group has also nominated the following to be named receiver or member of a receiver committee: former government housing agency head Florencio Orendain, banker Rene Jazmines and investment banker Mario Guiterrez.

The Yuseco group noted that despite their efforts to submit their own rehabilitation plan, the PDIC had gone ahead with the publication of its notice to bid which made it difficult for the stockholders to secure information vital to the preparation of the rehabilitation plan.

Yuseco, together with other Filipino shareholders and two Japanese firms, claimed owning 100 percent of UDB. Yuseco's group is allied with at least 22 depositors and a number of employees who were represented by Vicente Betos in the petition.

Yuseco noted that the PDIC showed abuse of discretion and partiality when it had continued dissuading stockholders from attempting to rehabilitate the bank.

For one, the group said, PDIC filed baseless criminal charges against some of the stockholders in order to disqualify them from the "fit and proper" rule of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The Yuseco group last week secured a temporary restraining order preventing the PDIC from selling the assets of UDB and/or accepting or awarding the rehabilitation program to Philippine Bank of Communications or to any other institutions without the requisite stockholders' approval.

UDB was closed early January after it experienced a severe run following the massive resignation of its officers and employees amid an ownership squabble between Yuseco's group and Japanese national Genta Ogami, who also claimed to own 100 percent of UDB. *Elena R. Torrijos*

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PSE gives small investors 10% IPO discount

By Elena R. Torrijos

TO ENTICE more people to invest in stocks, the Philippine Stock Exchange is giving small local investors a 10-percent discount on the final offer price of shares under an initial public offering.

At least a tenth of all shares offered in an IPO are currently reserved for small investors.

In a revision of its listing rules approved on Wednesday, the PSE board raised this level to 15 percent, depending on the issuer's discretion and when the issue is five times oversubscribed.

These "local small investors," in turn, will effectively enjoy a guaranteed rate of return on their investment as they will be able to acquire the IPO shares at 10 percent less than what will be offered to other investors before listing.

A "local small investor" refers to someone willing to subscribe to a minimum board lot or whose subscription does not exceed P25,000.

The revised listing rules were patterned after those instituted by the Hong Kong and Malaysian stock exchanges that provided small investors a 5- and 10-percent discount on the final price of an IPO.

The Securities and Exchange Commission, which has been informally apprised of the revision, welcomed the PSE's move.

"For the discount, I find no problem with that. I think it will encourage people to invest in shares rather than in Glasgow (a company that has allegedly victimized hundreds of investors)," SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said.

"We feel that's the move in the right direction: to encourage small investors to invest in the exchange," she added.

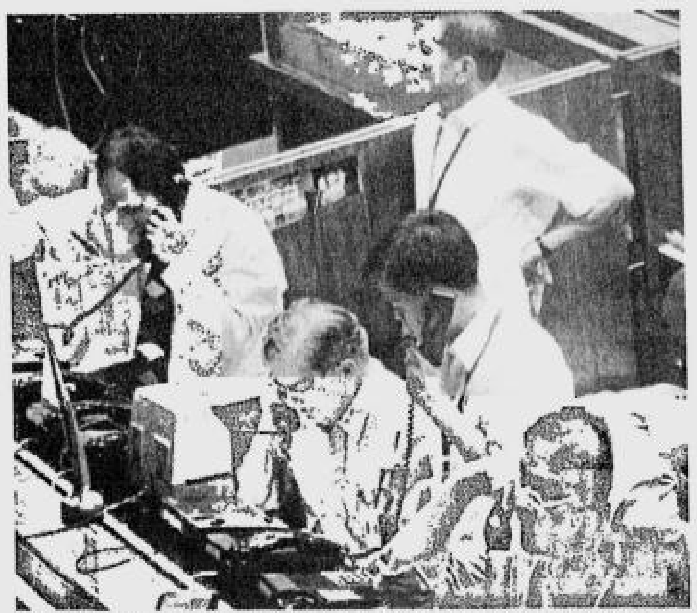
Under the revisions, the PSE also now requires companies to disclose the level of interest in the shares or how much the issue is over- or under-subscribed.

Also, listing should be made within 10 calendar days rather than 21 from the end of the offering period.

Moreover, book building may now involve up to 60 percent of the amount of shares being offered instead of the erstwhile maximum of 30 percent to make the final IPO price more market-determined.

The SEC must approve these revisions before these can be implemented by the stock exchange.

Several companies are expected to conduct an IPO this year, including retail magnate Henry Sy's department store arm, Shoemart Inc.



TRADERS working the floor of the Philippine Stock Exchange. To entice more people to invest in stocks, the Philippine Stock Exchange is giving small local investors a 10-percent discount on the final offer price of shares under an initial public offering.

Internet banking opens new area for competition

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE TECHNOLOGY revolution has dramatically changed the way people do business, and the banking industry has not been spared. From automated teller machines to phone banking, banking clients these days have turned to another channel for their banking needs—Internet or online banking.

Online banking primarily caters to banking clients who demand convenience and power at their fingertips. Time has increasingly become a scarce commodity. Thus, the prospect of doing banking transactions anytime, anywhere has become that much more attractive.

Even Philippine banking clients have caught on to the craze despite the relatively low penetration of Internet access compared with the more advanced countries, and leading local and foreign banks have set up their operations in anticipation of significant growth.

Online banking, thus, has become a new area for competition.

There are currently about nine banks that offer online banking. One of the first to set up online banking operations was the Bank of the Philippine Islands through its website—bpiexpressonline.com—launched in 2000.

Others include Citibank N.A., Union Bank of the Philippines, HSBC Corp., 1st e-Bank, Equitable PCI Bank Inc., Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., United Coconut Planters Bank and, lately, East West Banking Corp.

A survey of the online banking features of these banks, however, shows that most of online transactions stop at balance inquiry and bills payment. Most offer funds transfer and inquiries on time deposits and auto and housing loans, and only three offer some online shopping facility.

Banks are, thus, hard pressed to come up with unique features to entice clients to enroll in an online facility. It has been observed that clients who enroll in an online facility typically have higher average daily balance rates compared with ordinary bank depositors.

BPI vice president Raul D. Dimayuga said in an interview that BPI set up its online facility to provide added banking convenience to clients. The biggest come-ons to its site, he says, are the online bills payment facility and bills presentment, where clients can see their bills and transaction history.

"Let us face it, paying bills is not something that we look forward to, so online banking provides a convenient way of doing that. Think of the savings in terms of stress relief and increase in productivity because you no longer have to leave the office and go to different offices to pay the bills," he says.

BPI says its bills presentment facility and access to credit card transactions are among the unique features of its online banking facility, although he says that balance inquiry remains the most regularly used feature, followed by bills payment.

"We also go beyond just banking transactions in that we offer a lot of information to the public, and you don't even have to be a client. We show macroeconomic indicators and other information, we also have links to the other sites for online trading and we even list down the officers of the branches and locations of branches and ATMs," Dimayuga says.

HSBC senior vice president James Benoit, on the other hand, said HSBC purposely took its time before it set up its online facility to make sure that all bugs are removed from the system.

HSBC also put in a lot of effort in making its website—hsbc.com.ph—look attractive and easy to move around for the clients.

"Our design is fresh and simple to use. I also believe that reliability and quality is the key because it is online, people expect it to work all the time or else they end up feeling frustrated. So we took our time to make sure that everything worked before we put it out to the public," Benoit said.

HSBC has been noted for the fresh and attractive website, which Benoit said was designed by a local company. The website was officially launched just last April.

For its unique features, Benoit cited the online club facility where online banking clients can check on the latest bank events, sponsorships as well as special incentives and deals open to online banking clients.

"We want our online banking facility to go beyond just the banking transactions. For instance, we inform our clients of the latest promotions for the credit cards and activities that we have throughout the year," he said.

HSBC is also proud of its text alert facility where customers can receive confirmation of all transactions such as credit and debt information. By November, HSBC would also be able to show credit cart purchase information and checkup on consumer loan applications.

Online banking is available to banking clients who have access to a computer with at least an Explorer 5 or Navigator 4 browser and a modem speed of at least 56 k for optimum use, and enrollment is free for all banks.

Banks just require customers to have an account with the bank to be enrolled in the online banking facility.

Benoit said the subscriber growth grew beyond its expectations considering the low Internet penetration in the Philippines, but the take up could still be better.

One of the primary concerns that is stopping growth is security of the transactions, which tend to scare away the older banking clients who have just recently caught on the technological revolution.

Unless this and other concerns are addressed through perhaps an information campaign, online banking would remain a far second banking channel to the good old branch office and the bank tellers.

Telecom companies brace for fallout from WorldCom

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOCAL telecom companies are bracing for some fallout from the bankruptcy of US telecom giant WorldCom Inc., which is at the center of another huge accounting scandal in the United States after Enron Corp.

Two leading local companies—Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Globe Telecom Inc.—have about P1 billion in combined exposure to WorldCom, but both have assured their investors that they would be able to collect more payments.

The Gokongweis' Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc., the second biggest fixed line provider next to PLDT, said its exposure could simply be offset by its own accounts payable to WorldCom.

WorldCom, saddled with $30 billion in debts accumulated from an acquisition binge, brought shock waves across the globe and soured investor appetite on telecom issues after being charged with over $7 billion worth of accounting errors by the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

Local analysts said that fortunately, the local telecommunication industry had a relatively small share of accounts receivables from WorldCom.

They, nevertheless, welcomed efforts from these companies to address their respective exposures, especially since US courts had allowed WorldCom to continue servicing obligations to foreign carriers.

"Aside from the initial scare, it should have a minimal impact," Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said.

Official figures from PLDT indicated that the group's total exposure to WorldCom stood at $9 million (about P460 million) out of about P7 billion in accounts receivable from foreign carriers as of end-June.

But PLDT officials assured analysts that it was trying to collect payments from WorldCom and that its exposure could drop further to $4 million by the end of this month.

"In case PLDT is unable to collect (the remaining) $5 million from WorldCom, this would have negligible effect on this year's estimated earnings per share of P22.20," said Joanne Miguel, an analyst with 2tradeasia.com.

For its part, Globe Telecom disclosed to analysts it had so far booked about P579 million in loss provisioning for possible default by MCI, WorldCom and similar telecom firms in view of some $10 million in exposure which was now being reduced.

Globe Telecom said it received $4.5 million in payments in July and another $1.8 million in August but is not "uncertain" whether it could recover all of its exposure.

"Discounting Globe's telecom exposure provisioning of P579 million, our adjusted 2002 net income forecast would amount to about P5 billion or earning per share of P40.71," Miguel said.

Meanwhile, Lance Gokongwei, president of Digitel's parent firm, JG Summit Holdings Inc., said the bankruptcy had no impact on Digitel because the latter could simply "even out" debts with WorldCom.

"Also, I believe they've been paying the trade creditors. What they've stopped payment to is the banks," Gokongwei said.

Pre-need companies agree to put up 'protection fund'

THE PRE-NEED industry has stepped closer to putting up an additional fund for planholders similar to the insurance coverage being provided by the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

Philippine Federation of Pre-need Plan Companies Inc. president Juan Miguel Madrigal Vazquez said a recent survey among pre-need companies showed that most favored putting up a so-called protection fund to complement the trust funds that were already in place.

"This is double protection for our planholders. While we plan to put up this fund on a voluntary basis, we expect all of our 45 members to join eventually because no one, for sure, would want to be left out," he said.

The additional fund was proposed by the government and consumer groups.

Vasquez said his federation was looking at every measure to protect planholders.

"Like banks, we operate and thrive on public trust. We are a young and vibrant industry with so much growth potential and we want to strengthen that trust," he said.

Right now, the whole industry has about P37 billion in trust funds to cover maturing plans in the coming years.

"An additional fund would actually tell our planholders that it might be more prudent to put their money in a pre-need company for their and their children's future than elsewhere," he said.

Pre-need companies sell pension, life and educational plans. The last category, which started it all, now has the smallest piece of the marketing pie.

Educational plans were the first plans to be sold 35 years ago. Back then, when tuition was regulated and yearly increases were predictable, open-ended plans were the most saleable.

But with deregulation, tuition that was projected by pre-need companies to amount to only P50,000 upon maturity soared three or more times. Despite the loss, pre-need companies covered the plans using their trust funds.

Now, open-ended plans are hardly offered and, if at all, cost more than fixed-value plans, the more popular of the two these days. Fixed and predictable costs have removed financial surprises which, in the past, resulted in deficiencies.

"Fortunately, only two pre-need companies have remaining trust fund deficiencies as a result of the shift from open-ended plans and various other reforms, and these deficiencies are expected to be filled in the next two months," he said.

How to transmogrify our economy

From page B8

Take a look at it.

Wall Street continues to be volatile, but our market always seems to go in the opposite direction to the rest of the world. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the Dow and the Nasdaq fell sharply, and we went up 36 points. On Thursday, the Dow jumped 260 points and the Nasdaq soared 5 percent, so we went down 1 point, while Europe and the rest of Asia did extremely well.

The reason for Thursday's decline is that Aug. 15 is the last day for the declaration of second-quarter results, and with the exception of FPH, they were either bad, very bad or awful. Most companies either reported losses or reduced profits.

As a result, trading dried up completely, and net turnover, excluding cross sales, fell to an unheard of P102 million. In 1997, we were trading P4 billion a day, so this volume is pathetic. Foreign brokers continue to quit and one local broker has quit also. We still have far too many brokers. Twenty would be more than enough. In Hong Kong, 90 percent of the brokers are losing money; in the Philippines, I reckon the same percentage applies.

FLI has now obtained permission for its 85-percent stock dividend, which suggests no involvement in insider trading. Profits fell sharply in line with other property companies, but the shares remained steady, as this had been anticipated and discounted. You can always reach me, mrbearbull@hotmail.com

P.S. My BUY is still going up and up, now 18 percent. I did not include any limericks, as I do not know whether readers like them or not.

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4.	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	100,000.00	Please call
5.	CALIRAYA SPRING	-	Please call
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Baguio Country Club	-	680,000
Camp John Hay	290,000	250,000
Capitol Hills Golf & CC A/B*	110,000	Pls. Call
Canyon Woods	190,000	-
Canlubang Golf	550,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club	100,000	-
Celebrity Sports Club	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
City Sports Club	630,000	Pls. Call
Club Filipino	Pls. Call	-
Eagleridge "A"/"C"*	340,000/550,000*	-
Eastridge	170,000	-
Evercrest	100,000	-
Fairways & Blue Waters C1	600,000	-
Fontana D/C*/A**	70,000/140,000*/230,000**	80,000
Forest Hills "A"/C"	230,000	-
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	Pls. Call*	11,000,000
Manila Polo	-	-
Makati Sports Club A/B	Pls. Call	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	650,000/720,000*	-
Metropolitan Club	100,000	-
Mimosa Golf Ind./C3*	140,000	265,000*
Mt. Malarayat Ind/Corp.*	350,000/450,000*	-
Orchard Golf Corp*	Pls. Call/Pls.Call*	Pls. Call
Phil. Columbian	65,000	-
Puerto Azul "A"/"B"	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	-	495,000
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	-	200,000
Riviera Golf "A"/"C"*	190,000/380,000*	300,000*
Riviera Golf "B"	Pls. Call	-
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	90,000/Pls. Call*	-
Rockwell Club	470,000	-
Sherwoods "A"*/"B"**/"C"	105,000/Pls. Call*	-
Sta. Elena Golf "A"/B*	Pls. Call/Pls. Call*	Pls. Call
Subic Bay Yacht Club "Corp"	330,000	-
Subic Golf	180,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	-	350,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	900,000	810,000
Tagaytay Midlands	830,000	-
Valley Golf & CC	-	280,000
Valle Verde (Indv.)	160,000	-
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Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	85,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	110,000
Camp John Hay	Please Call	260,000
Canlubang	-	600,000
Canyonwoods	-	Please Call
Capitol Hills	105,000	115,000
Celebrity Sports Club	170,000	180,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	150,000
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	210,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	270,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	-	260,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	Please Call	300,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,750,000	12,300,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	11,000,000	Please Call
Manila Polo	Please Call	2,800,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	600,000	640,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	Please Call	730,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	120,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	150,000
Montemar (Individual)	30,000	40,000
Montemar (Corp)	50,000	-
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	-	330,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Punta Fuego	-	Please Call
Quezon City Sports Club	180,000	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	350,000	450,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	100,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,600,000	1,750,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	2,100,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	360,000	430,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	875,000
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	800,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
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Valley Golf	300,000	340,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	-	Please Call

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Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid	35,000
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Mimosa Golf	25,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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Mining firms seen in a rut for two more years

GLOBE Telecom Inc., through its "Vatican Texter" campaign, has lined up a number of mobile applications from Aug. 15 to Jan. 19 that will allow subscribers to support Pope John Paul II's cause while getting a chance to win prizes. Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin (second from right) is shown here with (from left) Globe vice presidents Manny Aligada, Nicky Santiago and Ana de Villa-Singson during the launch of Vatican Texter.

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE LOCAL mining industry is expected to remain in the pits over the next two years, as foreign and local players have virtually given up on getting positive presidential actions on problems that have hobbled their industry.

Philippine Mining Industrial Development Institute Foundation executive director Ed Coronel said government officials were apparently too preoccupied with the coming 2004 national elections.

Coronel told the INQUIRER that the industry would again lobby for more incentives after the elections.

Mining has become a highly charged political issue in the Philippines that no government official with an eye on the 2004 elections would dare risk being tarred as anti-environment by non-government organizations and the clergy, Coronel said.

He cited two major legal issues that foreign and local players wanted to resolve before going into high-risk, capital-intensive projects in the country.

These are the constitutionality of the 1995 Mining Act, specifically the financial and technical assistance agreements meant to open doors to foreign investors, and the implications of the Indigenous People's Rights Act.

He said these two issues had long been pending without any move by the government to resolve them soon.

Coronel said global players such as Western Mining Corp., Anglo American, Noranda and BHP had been waiting in the wings for years waiting for the government to get the ball rolling

"Despite the government inaction, the Philippines continues to be a key mining target for global players considering it ranks No. 2 and 3 in copper and gold potential in the world," Coronel said.

Philippine Mine Safety and Environment Association president Patrick Caoile said one world-class mine could generate at least $800 million in new investments, and this was nearly three times the $300-million investment of Philip Morris' cigarette factory in the Philippines that Malacañang embraced.

Caoile said the 1995 Mining Act adopted stringent environmental rules and regulations previously missing in past laws that espoused the use of improved exploration and production technology practiced in the most environmentally conscious countries around the world.

A study by the Institute for Global Resource Policy and Management at the Colorado School of Mines has ranked the Philippine mining regime as the fourth best among mining industries in the world behind Sweden, Chile and Argentina.

"The government should judge the industry on its merits such as the reforms it made to comply with environment standards," Caoile said.

The Chamber of Mines has lobbied in vain for the Macapagal administration to adopt a "National Minerals Policy" that will encourage responsible mining among explorers and strengthen the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Mines and Geosciences Bureau's monitoring activities.

No walls, no barriers

MINDANAO ONE

Joji Ilaga-Bian

EVENTS moved at a very fast clip for me these past two weeks as I went in and out of Mindanao reaching out to my colleagues in the business community. It was a rather dizzying experience given the time and distance I have to cover, the meetings I have to attend, and the whole gamut of things I have to consider aside from taking care of my family. Oh well, I thought a SEAL (Sea, Air, Land) commando would be a perfect substitute for me in some instances.

First stop: Cotabato City. Aug. 5 saw me and my staff heading out early in the morning for the 1st ARMM Business Congress in Cotabato City, where I was slated to sign a membership agreement with the ARMM Business Council (ABC). ABC is ably led by one of the longtime partners of the Mindanao Business Council in its advocacy work, Datu Haron U. Bandila. On that day, they were to formally join us—joining the ranks of business chambers and industry associations that have been with us since 1995.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jess Dureza, ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin, PCCI vice chair for Mindanao Tony Santos and Sulu Chamber of Commerce president Edsir Q. Tan. The event had far-reaching implications, beyond the pomp and formalities that normally accompany such events. It was a commitment sealed in ink, a dedication bonded by a handshake, and a moment in time that underscored, once and for all, that the Mindanao business community is one, regardless of color, creed, or religion.

I am honored to be part of a historic event that was the 1st ARMM Business Congress. The resolutions passed during that congress clearly embodied the aspirations of the ARMM business community and also reflected the same things we have been clamoring for over the past few years: Good and responsive governance, strong government-business sector partnership, investor-friendly initiatives on the part of the government, better infrastructure that would help enhance trade and business, and human resource development.

Right after the signing ceremony, I have to hop into an Air Force helicopter that was to take me and Presidential Assistant Jess Dureza back to Davao so that we could prepare for our trip the very next day to Manado, Indonesia, for the 10th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of the Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines-East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga). Our Huey helicopters don't necessarily have the creature comforts found in airliners but I got to enjoy a ride that offered an unobstructed view of the Mindanao countryside. Buffeting as the ride was, at least I was breathing fresh air. Talk about one of Mindanao's advantages: We literally have an investor-friendly environment.

Next stop: Manado, Indonesia. Aug. 6 had me joining 74 other delegates on a chartered flight to Manado for the 10th SOM. As Philippine country director for the East Asean Business Council (EABC), the SOM offered me the opportunity to exchange views with my business sector counterparts from the other Eaga countries.

The Philippine delegation was headed by Jess Dureza as Philippine senior official for BIMP-Eaga. We also had with us one of the Eaga founding fathers in the person of former Sen. Vicente "Ting" Paterno.

The Eaga economic cooperation has laid out many areas for complementation, namely in the areas of trade, fisheries, air and sea transportation, agriculture, construction materials, tourism, people mobility, human resource development, and harmonization of customs, immigration, and quarantine and security (CIQ-S) regulations.

The 10th SOM happened three weeks after the 1st BIMP-Eaga CIQ-S conference held in Davao City, a fact that can best illustrate that economic cooperation is alive and moving forward. Moreover, the event offered us the opportunity to revisit the business agreements we have made with our Eaga counterparts during trade missions and conferences.

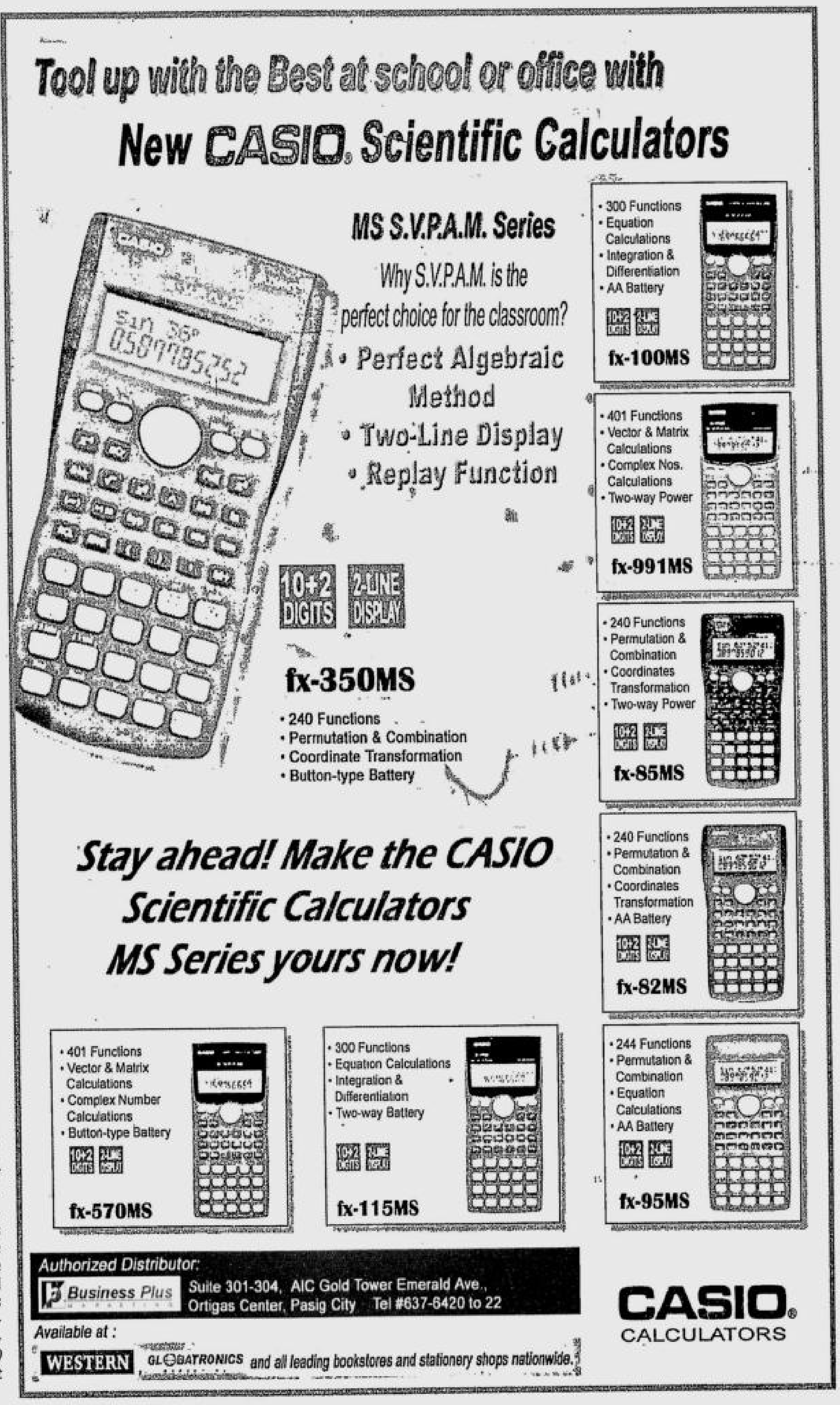
Mindanao has much to offer to the other regions involved in the economic cooperation in terms of human resource development. We already have conducted, in cooperation with the Technical Skills Development Authority (Tesda), several technical skills training courses for Indonesian students who came over to Davao City for that purpose. Mindanao can also position itself as the maritime training hub for the Eaga, given the presence of top maritime educational institutions in the island.

Other than human resource development, Mindanao is also in a better position to participate in Eaga agro-industrial trade exchanges given its strong agriculture base. However, we need to bolster trade and investments by adding more sea and air linkages with the other provinces in the growth area. For the period 1997-1999, Mindanao exports to other Eaga destinations had involved a total freight-on-board (FOB) value of $96,428,596. From 1991-1999, Mindanao's total trade volume with the other Eaga countries amounted to $805.5 million with an average growth rate of 8.47 percent.

The renewed interest of the Philippine government in the growth area is welcome news for us in the business sector. The 1997 financial crisis and the political uncertainties, which were similarly encountered by Malaysia and Indonesia in 1998-2000, may have slowed down cross-border trade but have never really dampened interest in the cooperation. We are now back on track to prove that there are indeed no walls, no barriers for a more robust Mindanao business sector.

* * *

THE 11TH Mindanao Business Conference will be held on Aug. 28-30, 2002 in Surigao City. This annual event provides the Mindanao business sector the opportunity to address vital policy issues concerning trade and investment in the island, resolutions of which will be presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo during the conference culmination program. We are expecting a minimum of 700-800 participants from Mindanao business locators, industry associations and potential investors. The conference will also highlight Surigao's robust economy and will provide attendees the chance to see world-class tourism spots such as the surfboarding sites and pristine white-sand beaches in Siargao Island. *(Interested participants may contact the Surigao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry for reservations at Tel. No. (63-86) 826-3580/826-8087/232-4047/232-5180 or e-mail the 11th MinBizCon Secretariat at sccimbc@philweblinc.com.)*



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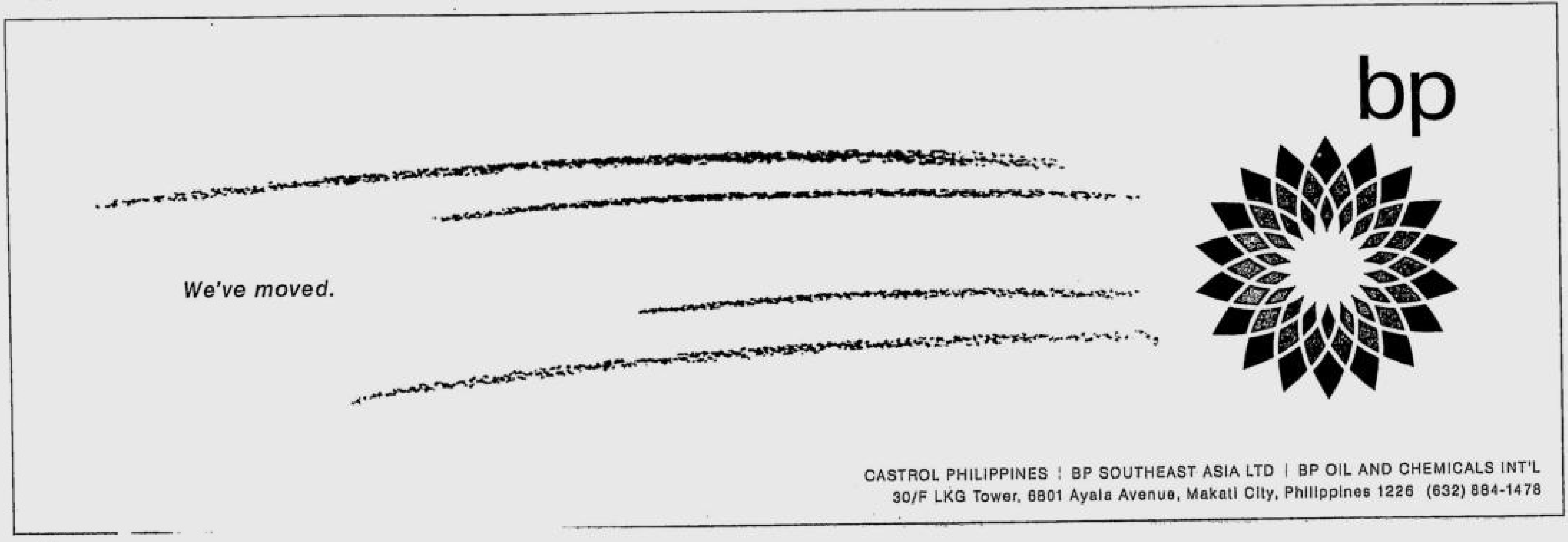

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Tame inflation prompts US rate cut speculation

WASHINGTON—Speculation mounted Friday that the US Federal Reserve will cut interest rates next month after latest data showed tame inflation, a softer housing market and shaky consumer confidence.

Federal Reserve policymakers decided against cutting interest rates from a 40-year low at their last meeting Tuesday, but they warned of the threat of a deterioration in the economy ahead.

They are scheduled to meet again on Sept. 24.

"We probably need to see some sign of strengthening in the economy for the Fed not to ease," Merrill Lynch senior economist Stan Shipley said.

"We think they will cut at the September meeting, because the data are not strong enough for them not to."

Inflation must be under control if Federal Reserve chair Alan Greenspan and his colleagues are to consider lowering interest rates to boost economic activity.

US consumer prices crept up just 0.1 percent in July and were up 1.5 percent compared with July 2001 figures, the Labor Department said.

Core prices, which exclude volatile food and energy costs, rose 0.2 percent in July and were up 2.2 percent from the same month a year earlier, the Labor Department said.

"Year on year, the core rate has eased further, which weighs at the margins in favor of a Fed rate cut," said Sal Guatieri, Chicago-based economist at Bank of Montreal.

"If inflation falls, the Fed generally would need to lower nominal interest rates to keep policy steady in real terms," he said.

"To the extent that it provides the Fed with a little greater flexibility to lower interest rates, it is positive for the economy."

Groundbreaking on new US housing projects slumped 2.7 percent from the previous month to an annual rate of 1.649 million homes in July, the government said.

The seasonally adjusted fall, steeper than Wall Street economists' forecasts for a drop of 0.5 percent, followed a matching 2.7-percent decline in June. *AFP*

A LONG-TAIL water taxi zips across Bangkok's industrial and commercial port. Bangkok, like many developing capitals in Asia, is awash with striking contrasts of old and new as the cities embrace the pressures and benefits of global trade and business. AFP

Martha Stewart: The domestic queen faces financial mess

SAN FRANCISCO—Home economics maven Martha Stewart is still on television, offering tips in her sonorous voice on making homemade ice cream and capturing fireflies for outdoor lighting accents, seemingly oblivious to the scandal surrounding her.

In spite of probes by the FBI, the US Justice Department, the US Securities and Exchange Commission and the US Congress over allegations she engaged in illegal insider trading, the domestic queen and her Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia corporation continue to plow through the media waters, the bowsprit of uber-homemaker cutting through waves of bad news.

Over the past week, Stewart's lawyers have handed over phone records and other documents to a US congressional panel investigating allegations that the domestic doyenne engaged in a bit of insider trading.

The case against Stewart by US securities regulators hinges on an 11-minute phone call she had with Douglas Faneuil, a new 26-year-old assistant to her stockbroker, Peter Bacanovic.

After changing his story several times, Faneuil now says he gave information not available to public investors that biotechnology firm ImClone's promising new anti-cancer drug Erbitux had been turned down for public sales by the US Food and Drug Administration.

That bit of information, regulators suspect, promoted Stewart to sell her 4,000 shares of ImClone.

Stewart and Bacanovic contend she had a standing verbal order to sell her ImClone shares if the stock dipped below $60 a share. Stewart sold her ImClone shares at $59.98.

Stewart has denied wrongdoing, but didn't help her case any when she went on a morning US national television talk show in June—just as the scandal was making headlines—menacingly slicing cabbage while refusing to comment on the case.

"I want to focus on my salad!" she snapped as she continued to chop.

Born in August 1941, Martha Kostyra was the second of six children of New Jersey salesman Edward Kostyra and his strict Polish housewife, Martha.

She spent her early teen years making her own dresses, digging in the family garden and concocting pastries for a household that never enjoyed postwar prosperity.

Her soft, WASP-ish features soon caught the attention of fashion model scouts, who catapulted her into New York fashion circles. She soon grew disillusioned and abandoned the runways to study art history at Barnard College.

At Barnard, she met Andy Stewart, an ambitious law student and son of a Wall Street stockbroker. The two married in 1961, and Stewart used wedding present money to begin investing in the stock market.

The markets soon made the couple wealthy. When a downturn in the economy hit in 1971, the Stewarts moved into what she would later remember as an "old wreck" of a house in Westport, Connecticut.

The experience of reviving that wreck steered Stewart toward the unexploited world of the homemaker. She soon opened a gourmet food shop in Westport, followed by a catering business that became the million-dollar Martha Stewart Inc. concern serving high-end, yet fiercely traditional fare to corporate clients and celebrities.

During this time, Stewart published her first book, "Entertaining," which sold 500,000 copies, a record for such a title. The book was soon followed by other tomes on staging weddings, pies, tarts and hors d'oeuvres.

It was during this time Stewart earned a reputation as addicted to work, fueled by chronic insomnia and dogged by stories of exploiting, then failing to credit the talented people she hired. *AFP*

Vivendi reportedly to shed its entire publishing business

PARIS—Embattled media and entertainment giant Vivendi Universal will follow up its planned sale of US publisher Houghton Mifflin with the sale of the rest of its publishing assets, a French newspaper reported Friday.

The sale of Vivendi Universal Publishing together with Houghton Mifflin would bring the cash-strapped conglomerate an estimated $1.96 billion, Le Figaro reported.

Meanwhile, shares in Vivendi Universal plunged for a third straight day on the Paris stock exchange Friday in a selling spree sparked by the company's $12.05-billion loss in the first half of this year.

Vivendi's share price closed down 12.26 percent at $9.13, after dropping to as low as $8.48.

The shares fell after analysts at UBS AG and Deutsche Bank downgraded their ratings of the company. The stock has lost more than one-third of its value this week and more than 80 percent this year.

Chair Jean-Rene Fourtou on Wednesday said Vivendi plans to sell at least $9.8 billion worth of assets, including the US publisher Houghton Mifflin that it acquired only last year.

Fourtou said the company was facing a cash crunch resulting from $13.74 billion of charges in the first half of 2002.

Le Figaro reported that Vivendi Universal Publishing's assets, from French publishing house Larousse to video game-maker Blizzard Entertainment, would likely be sold for around $442 million.

Houghton Mifflin is expected to sell for $1.47 billion.

On its Internet site, Vivendi puts the value of Vivendi Universal Publishing at $4.9 billion.

Officials at Vivendi Universal refused to comment on the report in Le Figaro.

Fourtou's strategy appears to be in sharp contrast to that of his predecessor, Jean-Marie Messier, who planned to build up an influential global publishing business centered around Houghton Mifflin.

Analysts viewed the sale of Houghton Mifflin as the first step toward breaking up Vivendi Universal, which is saddled by a massive $18.65 billion worth of debt. *AP*

Future for newspapers online remains bright, executive says

DAVIS, West Virginia—Despite predictions to the contrary, newspapers can have a bright future as technology-driven information companies, a top industry executive told editors and publishers.

Acknowledging that "things are getting very strange out there" economically, W. Dean Singleton, vice chairman and chief executive of MediaNews Group, said Friday, "It's time to charge, not retreat . . . I'm a believer that the payoff on the Web is there, it's just waiting for us to discover the right models.

"We are well-positioned as the cornerstone of media convergence when the chains of cross-ownership are released next year," he added, referring to expectations that the Federal Communications Commission will remove restrictions on joint ownership of broadcast and newspaper outlets.

"It is indeed a delicious irony that the oldest communications medium is emerging as the most modern, most high-tech and most successful," Singleton told attendees at the annual convention of the West Virginia Press Association.

Some have predicted that the Internet and the World Wide Web would undermine newspapers' future.

Denver-based MediaNews is the seventh largest newspaper group in the United States and owns the Charleston, West Virginia, Daily Mail, as well as the Denver Post. Singleton is also the chairman of the Newspaper Association of America and a member of The Associated Press board of directors.

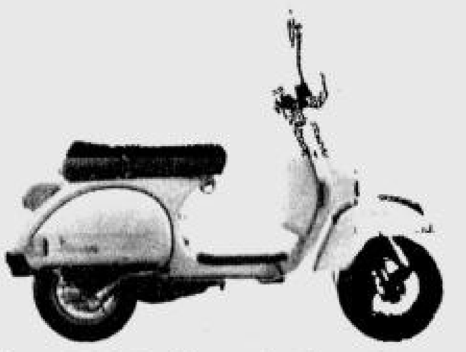
Singleton pointed to studies that indicate Web users are also newspaper readers and that Web use even leads to newspaper purchases.

The Internet "is a massive transfer of power. As more people have access to more information, the relationship with those who used to own and dispense that information is dramatically altered, and I don't care whether that's your doctor, your president or the publisher of your local newspaper," he said.

"We need to be part of this shift," he said. "We need to be so immersed and intertwined that we are both a driver of change and a beneficiary. And we do that by accelerating and refining the synergies between" the Internet and print.

"Peer-to-peer computing, digital newspaper, new generations of mobile computing, all of these are part of the next wave," he said. "If we don't put them to work, someone else will and we'll be scrambling to catch up again." *AP*

Ciao Pilipinas!



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Wall Street advances, investors eye economy

NEW YORK—Wall Street is hungering for some good economic news after clambering higher in the past week, helped by improved sentiment over corporate accounting, experts said.

"We have got to get some vigor in the economy or the stock market will start to turn down again," warned Prudential Securities market analyst Larry Wachtel.

Over the week, the Dow Jones industrials average of 30 top stocks climbed 32.61 points, or 0.37 percent, to 8,778.06.

The wider Standard & Poor's 500 index gained ground for the fourth consecutive week, the first time it has done so since March last year. It rose 20.13 points, or 2.22 percent, to 928.77.

The technology-laden Nasdaq index advanced for the second week in a row, rising 54.89 points, or 4.20 percent, to 1,361.01. It was first two-week rise on the Nasdaq since March.

"It is still part of a convalescent period," Wachtel said.

"We went through a horrific selling phase culminating on July 23," he added. "It looks like we made some kind of bottom in late July."

The economic indicators were mixed through the week.

US retail sales rose 1.2 percent and industry edged up production 0.2 percent in July, the data showed. But groundbreaking on new US housing projects slumped 2.7 percent from the previous month in July.

And sentiment among US consumers slipped in August. The University of Michigan index of confidence eased 0.2 points from the previous month to 87.9.

Federal Reserve policymakers performed as expected at a meeting Tuesday, leaving interest rates unchanged while warning of risks to the economy ahead. Investors sulked, however, saying they had been hoping for a cut.

But the market gained some stamina mid-week when bond prices leapt and yields fell to their lowest level since 1963, leading many investors to cash in their profits on bonds and plough the cash into stocks.

On the corporate front, investors took some heart from a rush of bosses filing sworn statements to the Securities and Exchange Commission verifying that their accounts were accurate.

In its filing, media titan AOL Time Warner said it had found $49 million in dodgy accounting at its advertising and commerce division.

Traders sighed in relief that the problems were not worse. As a result, the AOL share price advanced $1.51, or 13.67 percent, over the week to finish at $12.56.

Airlines provided the grimmest news, with US Airways filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy Sunday, American Airlines axing 7,000 jobs to stay fit, and United Airlines warning it may have to file for bankruptcy this fall unless it can cut costs further.

United Airlines' parent UAL slumped 57 cents, or 15 percent, over the week to close at $3.23. *AFP*

Singapore Airlines pilots to vote on industrial action

SINGAPORE—Singapore Airlines (SIA) pilots will vote in three weeks on whether to mount their first industrial action in 22 years over a dispute on inflight rest arrangements, media reports said Saturday.

At a meeting that stretched late into the night Friday, the pilots passed a resolution to hold the "secret ballot" in three weeks on whether to take the action which could affect flights, local television and the Straits Times reported.

If carried out, it will be the first industrial action for SIA since 1980 when it took the personal intervention of then Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew to end a dispute over salaries and benefits.

SIA pilots, represented by the Air Line Pilots Association of Singapore, are protesting a new management arrangement requiring that they take their inflight breaks in economy seats if no business class seats are available.

SIA, one of Asia's most prestigious airlines, has introduced seats that could be converted into beds. These new seats occupy more space, resulting in fewer business class seats.

Management wants to fill these seats with paying front cabin passengers, so pilots would have to take their breaks or have meals in less luxurious economy class atmosphere if business class seats are full.

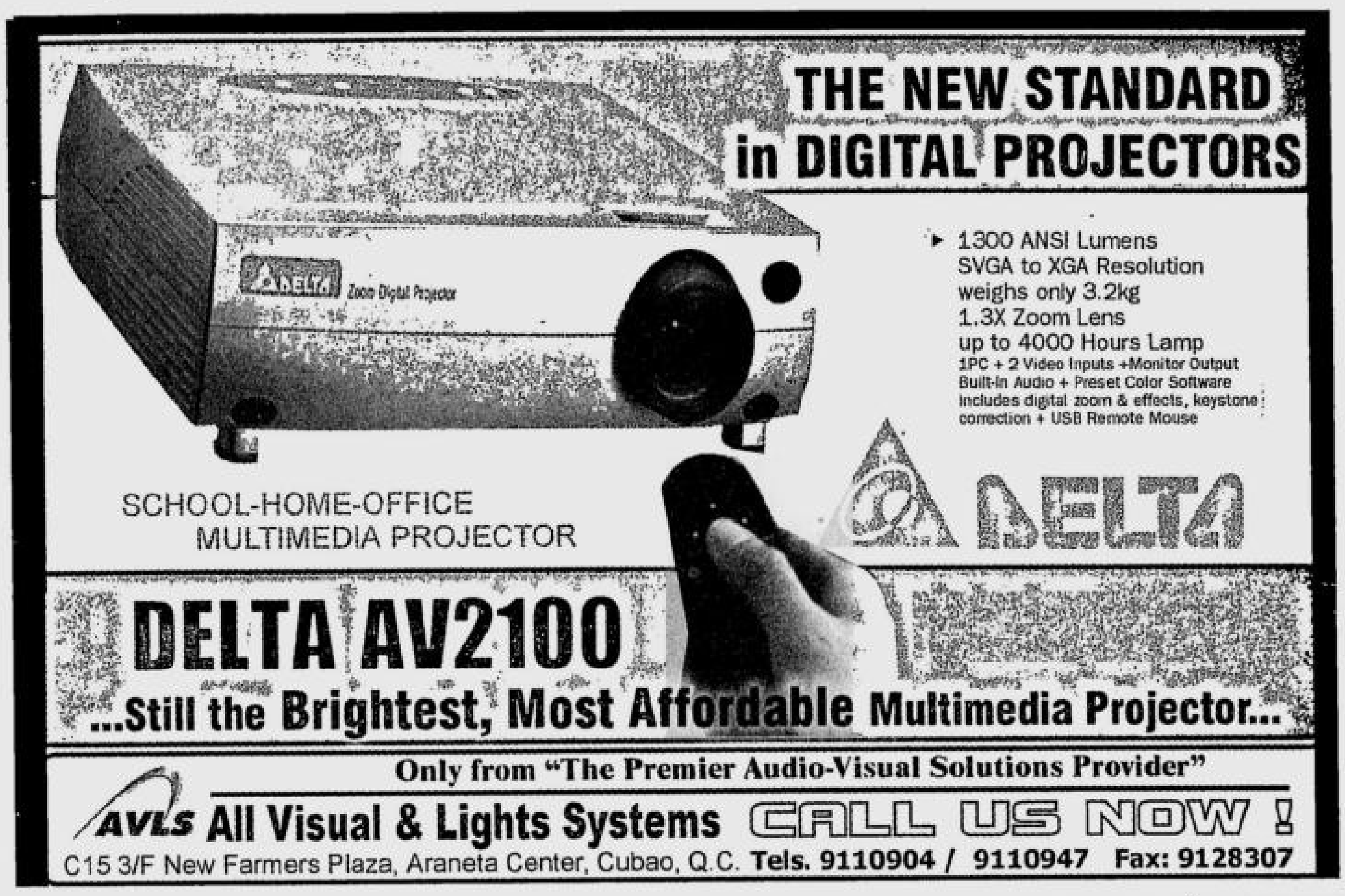
Pilots claim this is a breach of their collective agreement which provides that they take inflight rests on business class seats or any similar facility.

At their extraordinary general meeting Friday, the pilots also passed two other resolutions—registering their condemnation of the new arrangement and the sacking of two pilots on the controls of a jumbo jet that crashed in Taiwan two years ago, killing 83 people.

Ahead of the secret vote, the pilots will continue to meet with representatives of the airline and the Manpower Ministry in a bid to reach an amicable settlement.

The Straits Times said that even if conciliation talks fail, the Manpower Ministry can order both sides to go for compulsory arbitration, under which the Industrial Arbitration Court will decide the outcome of the dispute.

Transport Minister Yeo Cheow Tong has warned that any industrial action by the pilots "will impact on the reputation of SIA and indirectly it will impact on themselves as well." *AFP*



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THE CREATIVE Technology Ltd. building sits along the International Business Park in Singapore. Creative Technology Ltd., known for its computer Sound Blasters cards and digital music players, reported a net loss of $48.4 million in the fourth quarter to June. AFP

Tokyo government to shift money to Citibank–reports

TOKYO—The Tokyo metropolitan government will become the first local government in Japan to deposit public funds in a foreign bank as it plans to put money in US banking giant Citibank, reports said Saturday.

The metropolitan government, run by charismatic governor Shintaro Ishihara, has decided to deposit more than 100 billion yen ($855 million) in Citibank to diversify risks, Japan's top-selling daily Yomiuri Shimbun said.

"The Tokyo metropolitan government will manage its taxpayers' money in a safe and efficient manner. We may let some banks go," Ishihara was quoted by Kyodo News agency as telling reporters on Friday.

The Tokyo government currently has 1.7 trillion yen in public funds at 15 Japanese banks.

In April, the Japanese central government introduced a 10-million yen cap on guarantees on time deposits at banks that collapse and is scheduled to put a similar ceiling on ordinary deposits, checking accounts and other liquid bank accounts from April next year.

The decision by the Tokyo metropolitan government to transfer some of its money to Citibank is to ensure the safety of its savings ahead of the planned abolition of full-refund guarantees in April 2003, the Yomiuri said. *AFP*

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#1 in Q1 2002 Global Contract Wins*

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Subic recycling firm expands nationwide

A RECYCLING firm in the Subic Freeport Zone which re-manufactures empty inkjet and laser-printer cartridges into quality computer cartridges has announced its recent expansion nationwide.

Norbert Grimm, president of Printing Images CtC Inc., proudly declared that the progress of his company is clear proof that recycling is not only environment-friendly, it is also financially rewarding. This is also attested to by a recent article in the New York Times (July 18) on the increasing number of re-manufacturing companies for used inkjet and laser cartridges which are sold at much lower prices than the originals from the printer manufacturers. The author, David Gallagher, cites a funding program in Michigan and an international relief organization in Florida that are earning substantially from the collection of empties which they sell to re-manufacturers.

It might not take long for such activities to influence similar local groups, especially with the setting up by Printing Images CtC Inc. (047-2526012, 0916-3053244) of three independent corporations as its collecting partners for increasing collections of empty inkjet and laser-printer cartridges nationwide. One is Printing Images-Manila (890-1266, 0917-8329073), based in Makati for Metro Manila and Southern Luzon. Another is Printing Images-Luzon (047-2244526), based in Olongapo City (outside the main office in Subic) to cover Central and Northern Luzon, and Printing Images-Cebu (0916-4315946) based in Cebu City, to cover the Visayas and Mindanao areas.

Printing Images is now welcoming more individuals or groups who want or need to earn sustainable income as collectors, full-time or part-time, to meet the continuing demand for quality re-manufactured cartridges abroad, where the company has been selling its products. The company is also setting aside an initial 20 percent of its output for sale to the domestic market.

for Edu
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BPI SERVICES PERPETUAL EDUCATION FUND

The Bank of the Philippine Islands was chosen by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints to service its Perpetual Education Fund (PEF) loan program here in the Philippines. The memorandum of agreement was signed on BPI's 151st anniversary Aug. 1 at the 1851 Club, BPI Head Office in Makati. Under the MOA, BPI will service the loans extended by the Church of Jesus Christ to its members, either by disbursing payments to the school where the member is enrolled, or by crediting the BPI savings account of the member availing of the loan. The PEF was established in April 2001. The purpose of the fund is to assist missionaries who serve in poor areas of the world and who often return to a life of poverty after church service. At the MOA signing are (seated, from left) Cynthia Llantada, area controller, Elder John Madsen, second counselor and chair of the Area PEF committee, and Elder Angel Abrea, first counselor, Area Presidency from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, BPI SEVP Aurelio Montinola III and SVP Teresita Tan. Witnessing the signing are the other officers of BPI.

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y Diapers
50%
EQ

DIAPER PRICE-OFF

In keeping with the goal to provide quality yet affordable products for the Filipino consumer, Prokids Premium Baby diapers and EQ Baby diapers are having a special price-off promo. Dubbed as the 'Mid-Year Tipid Promo', budget-conscious mothers can now avail themselves of Prokids diapers Big Pack at P10 off the regular price. EQ Diapers are priced P10 less for the Big Pack and P5 less for the Budget Pack. Prokids and EQ Diapers are lauded for being the most cost-effective and dependable diaper brands in the market today. Just look for the banners (as shown above) leading to the Prokids and EQ Diapers at all leading supermarkets and groceries nationwide.

Ajinomoto 40th anniversary promo gives P8 million cash

AJINOMOTO Philippines Corp. (APC) is celebrating 40 years of production milestones. That's looking back in 1962 when its Pasig factory started to produce Aji-No-Moto Super Seasoning, the pure white crystals known to make Filipino meals a happy feast of delicious food. Since then, APC has been consistent with its passion to produce the best food seasonings in the world and making these available in every Filipino home. Ajinomoto Ginisa Flavor Mix, the second retail seasoning product APC launched in the Philippines, is the leader in the stir-fry seasoning category. Consumers are also enjoying lots of delicious experiences with soy sauce brand Aji-Toyo and Aji-Shio Garlic and Pepper Plus. APC also ventured in the calorie-free sweetener category with its product "Pal-Sweet".

A patronage of 40 years is something APC owes to its consumers and customers. In a move to showcase its appreciation and gratitude, APC is giving away more than P8 million in cash prizes to lucky winners of its 40th anniversary promo dubbed "Kalde-Kalderong Kwarta". Wrappers of various Ajinomoto products are all that is needed to win either in the weekly raffle draws and the play-off games that will be seen live on noontime TV program "Eat Bulaga". The grand draw will make one lucky contestant a millionaire. The promo period will run from Aug. 1 to Nov. 1. Promo posters located nationwide contain all the details on how to join the anniversary promo.

Everyone is enjoined to take part in APC's celebration of 40 years of operations by striking lucky and scooping big bucks in "Kalde-Kalderong Kwarta."

2ND SM BOWLING CUP ROLLS ON

Bowling Cup
July 2002 to May 20

One great tourney deserves another. After the success of the first Bowling Cup, the SM Bowling Centers recently launched the Second SM Bowling Cup. Now ongoing at all SM Bowling Centers, it is open to male and female bowling enthusiasts with an average score of 195. Monthly finals in the SM Bowling Centers of SM City North-Edsa, SM Megamall, SM City Fairview, and SM City Cebu lead to the grand finals in April 2003. The 2nd SM Bowling Cup is sponsored by Accel, Pepsi, and Nature Spring. Bowling enthusiasts who wish to join can call the SM Bowling Centers at the SM Megamall at 636-7056, SM City North-Edsa at 929-3320, SM City Fairview at 417-6433, and SM City Cebu at (032)2320292. Reinier Pasquin, a first year college student at Jose Rizal College, here receives his trophy as champion during the first monthly center finals at SM Megamall from bowling manager Arthur Razote.

ONE FIT EXERCIS

BONE FITNESS PROGRAM

Gardenia High Calcium Loaf, the first and only high-calcium bread recommended by OSPFI, and Gold's Gym, the largest premiere gym chain in the world, in partnership with the Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines Foundation Inc recently launched the Bone Fitness Program at Gold's Gym Glorietta 3. The Bone Fitness Program, to run from September to October, is a total body workout program that combines muscle strengthening and stretching exercises that promote strong bones. Shown, from left, are Nestor E. Constancia, sales and marketing manager of Gardenia Bakeries Philippines Inc., Mylene Dayrit, CEO of Gold's Gym, Dr. Leilani B. Mercado-Asis, secretary general and treasurer of OSPFI with daughter, Debbie Go, product manager of Gardenia, and Jason Moriarty, assistant general manager of Gold's Gym.

Anniver
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MON

12TH LI'L HANDS CLUB FUN DAY

Aug. 24 is another big day bash to all Li'l Hands Club members. Kids are again invited to a fun-filled day of surprises, parlor games, treats and activities. This time, Dream Town, one of Li'l Hands' long time friends, will again host the fun. As usual, Li'l Hands Club will not be a kiddy arts club without an art workshop. The workshop starts at exactly 12 noon. See those happy faces? Dream Town is located at the 3rd floor of Robinsons Manila. For more details, call 842-1515 to 17, 568-5868 to 76, or e-mail club@lilhands.com or fax 842-1518.

BITS Clips

IS Manila new site

THE INTERNATIONAL School Manila welcomes its students and commences its first school year in a state-of-the-art campus in Fort Bonifacio. Students can look forward to large carpeted classrooms, landscaped quadrangles, three air-conditioned gymnasia with NBA-standard 10-mm synthetic sports flooring and modern plexiglass backboards, three-story media centers, an open-seating experimental theater, an 850-seat Fine and Performing Arts Theater, and ICT and science laboratories. IS Manila's new campus is located on the highest elevation in Fort Bonifacio. IS Manila's new facility is ready for the first day of school today, Aug. 19. Call 840-8600 or e-mail communications@ismanila.com to schedule a school tour. A virtual tour will soon be available at www.ismanila.com.

Art workshops

EVERY Saturday of August, The Outlet Yard, in cooperation with Viscomm, has been conducting a series of art workshops titled "Art Strokes, Friends N' Art". Adults and children discover fun and creative ways of learning different art media. On Aug. 24 will be watercolor painting. On Aug. 31, oil painting. For more inquiries, call Viscomm at 740-7221. The Outlet Yard is located at 1480 Quezon Avenue, near the corner of Scout Borromeo. It offers the best value shopping in the latest fashion wear of popular retailers like Maldita, Dickies, Anonymous, Bench, Hush Puppies, and Penshoppe.

Foodservice business promotion

IDENTIFYING, finding, attracting and maintaining customers are the next most important concerns of a foodservice business operator after hurdling the food and service aspects. A seminar-workshop for restaurateurs, caterers, resort operators, and food service executives titled "Marketing and Promoting Your Foodservice Business" by ProActive Center for Training is slated from Aug. 23 to 25, 2 to 6 p.m. at Bedas Restaurant, C5, Libis, Quezon City. Reservations are accepted on a first-come-first-served basis at 787-6370 or 0919-5500601. Free shuttle service from SM Megamall to the venue, and back, will be provided. The workshop aims to equip foodservice operators with basic knowledge and skills in marketing, advertising, and promotions. Topics include preparing marketing and advertising plans, public relations and sales promotions.

Haribon biodiversity exhibit

THE HARIBON Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources holds the third leg of its environmental exhibit "Celebrate Biodiversity" from Aug. 19 to 25 at the North Court of the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell. The exhibit brings the concept and plight of our country's biodiversity to people's consciousness and help them get a better grasp of the vital role that it plays in our survival. Attractions and activities are lined up, among which is a photo exhibit by Neal Oshima. An interactive digital station features the latest iMac computers. The Children's Corner enables kids to participate in activities that would help them learn about the environment. The exhibit is supported by the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Vogelbescherming Nederland, Apple Computer, Philips Consumer Electronics, DWNU 107, BPI Foundation, Equitable PCIBank and Cravings.

BREEZE WOODS DEV'T CORP
AND
SIGNATURE BLOCKS
MOA SIGNIN
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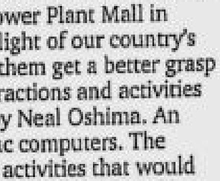
BREEZE WOODS, SIGNATURE BLOCKS MOA

Breeze Woods Development Corp. president Francisco J. Buencamino (seated, left) signs a franchise accord with Signature Blocks proprietor Manuel L. Cruz Jr. Witnesses to the contract signing are BWDC officials Jose A. Afungol, architectural and engineering manager, Nanette B. Sinco, administrative manager, Malou E. Labastida, material management head, and Julian R. Esquillo, strategic business unit manager. BWDC, a property developer, will use prefabricated concrete hollow blocks invented by Signature Blocks at its Breeze Woods Phase I economy housing project in Bacoor, Cavite.

Product FILES

'Egg-citing' alternative to snacks



GRAND Alphatech International Corp. (Galinco), makers of Chips Delight Chocolate Chip Cookies and Smileys Chocolate Sandwich Cookies, introduces another yummy and healthy alternative to everyday snacks and baon—Egg Bites Cookies.

Egg Bites are drops of heavenly cookies that have just the right amount of crunch and sweetness that kids love, while providing a healthier treat adults look for in a snack.

Egg Bites cookies are made from the freshest eggs and the finest ingredients, then baked to perfection for that melt-in-the-mouth goodness straight out of the oven.

Egg Bites Cookies are available in four "egg-citing" flavors: cheese, orange, chocolate and original, and also comes in different sizes: 35 grams and 18 grams.

Texas board revokes Andersen's license

AUSTIN, Texas—Accounting firm Arthur Andersen on Friday lost its license to practice in Texas, the home state of its former client Enron.

The state board that regulates the Texas accounting profession voted unanimously to revoke the once venerable firm's license because of the company's obstruction of justice conviction.

"Although it is tragic that a firm with Andersen's proud history in Texas should be brought so low, the firm's actions in the Enron case clearly warrant this result," said K. Michael Conaway, presiding officer of the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy.

Andersen was convicted by a Houston jury in June of obstruction of justice in a federal investigation of Enron's financial collapse. The collapse led to a December bankruptcy for the Houston-based energy trader.

Lawyer Richard Forrest, who represented Andersen in the case before the state board, said the Chicago-based accounting and auditing firm was no longer practicing accounting in Texas.

Andersen had told the Securities and Exchange Commission after the verdict that it would cease auditing public companies by Aug. 31.

The company had agreed to the license revocation and a $1,000 fine, the maximum the state board could fine the company.

Since the grand jury indictment, "things have of course gone badly from a business standpoint for Arthur Andersen and they have lost a lot of clients and had been winding up business and have wound up business in Texas," Forrest said.

The board, when it publicly disclosed in May that it was trying to revoke the company's accounting license, had said it was seeking at least $1 million in fines and penalties for several alleged violations of the law. *AP*

Personal bankruptcies hit record high in Hong Kong

HONG KONG—The number of personal bankruptcies soared to a record of 12,407 in the first seven months of the year as Hong Kong struggles through an economic downturn, the government said Friday.

The figure was almost triple the previous high of 4,340 bankruptcies between January and July 2001, officials said.

The dramatic increase came as Hong Kong also set records for unemployment and the number of people receiving welfare payments.

The jobless rate hit an all-time high of 7.7 percent in the April-June quarter while the number of people receiving government payments rose in July to 258,085.

Bankruptcies in Hong Kong have been rising since the 1997 Asian financial crisis. The Chinese territory's economy shrank 0.9 percent in the first quarter of this year from the same period of 2001, the third straight on-year decline. *AP*

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Are you currently using AutoCAD LT in creating your designs? Are you encountering problems in using AutoCAD LT? If you answered "YES" to either one of the questions, you should attend this Technical Consultation Forum. This forum aims to assist you in resolving commonly encountered problems on AutoCAD LT 2002.

Fax this form and reserve a seat now!

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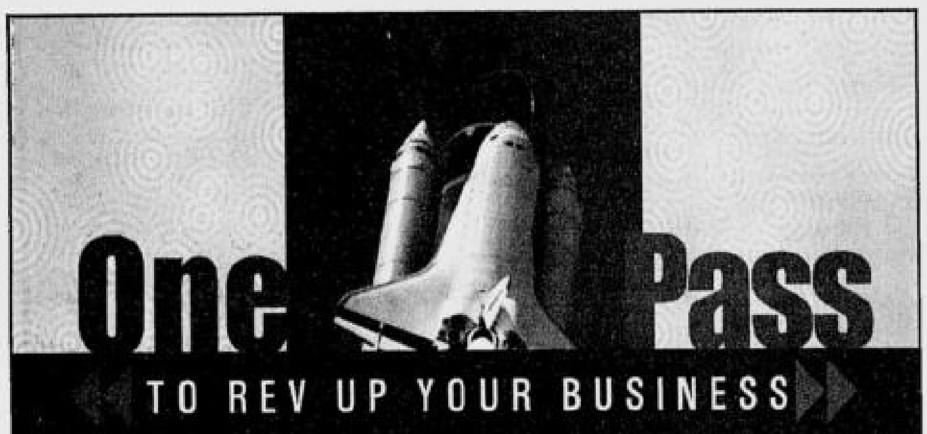

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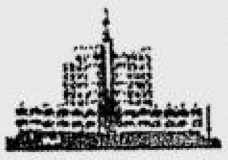

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- 30wpm typing speed, good oral English skills
- With at least 6 months experience as Secretary

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P300 and up per day
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East Avenue, Quezon City 1100, Philippines • Telephone 925-24-01

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

The Philippine Heart Center (PHC) invites sealed written bids, re: supply of labor, tools and materials for the **INSTALLATION OF FIRE ALARM SYSTEM AND SMOKE/HEAT DETECTOR.**

Only duly accredited bidders/suppliers will be allowed to participate in the bidding.

List of requirements to be submitted:
1. Letter of intent /co. profile
2. SEC registration
3. Business License
4. List of clients
5. Financial Statement (last 2 yrs.)
6. ITR (last 2 yrs.)
7. Location Map of Office

All interested bidders/suppliers must submit their accreditation documents on or before August 26, 2002 at Purchasing Division.

The PHC reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder/s if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information and the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

(Sgd.) ROMEO J. SANTOS, M.D.
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI--Aug. 10, 11, 12, 17, 18 & 19, 2002)

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NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE: Loss S2 ID#1933159 under the name of Dr. Ramonito D. Viiran *(PDI-Aug. 12, 19, '02)*

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- With pleasing personality and strong leadership qualities
- Customer-oriented and with mature disposition
- Willing to undergo comprehensive training and work on shifts
- Must be computer literate
- Fresh graduates with good scholastic records are welcome to apply

Please address your communications complete with passport size photo to:

MANUEL P. LUNA
Human Resources Division
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PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
420th SW, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga

NOTICE OF SALE BY PUBLIC BIDDING

The Philippine Air Force will receive sealed bids until **17 Sept, 2002, 2:00 P.M.** at Conference Room of 420th Supply Wing, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga for the sale of the following unserviceable properties on **"as is, where is"** basis:

Lot Number / Description	LOCATION	MIN BID PRICE
Lot IB: Three T-28 acft carcasses 531, 704, 785	15th SW, Sangley Air Base, Cavite City	P60,000.00
Lot VB: Two S-76A acft carcasses 208 & 209	-do-	P40,000.00
Lot IVB: two (2) - S211 aircraft 806 & 810	Air Ads Corp, Andrews Avenue, Domestic Airport, Pasay	P16,000.00
Lot VIIB: assorted scrap of office eqpt	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	P8,000.00
Lot 5-278-012: one (1) S-70A acft carcass	-do-	P12,000.00
Lot 5-208-008: one (1) UH-IH #755 carcass	-do-	P20,000.00
Lot 7-136-001: Four T-28 acft nrs.7560, 3644, 3658 and 7701	420th SW, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga and 15th SW, Sangley Air Base, Cavite City – acft # 644	P4,320,305.00
Lot 5-283-022 – 10 T-28 engines with canister	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	P3.5 M
Lot 5-283-023 – 8 T-28 engines w/out canister	-do-	P2.3 M
Lot 6-106-037 – 2 F-5 acft carcasses 323 & 506	-do-	P268,000.00
Lot 6-106-038: two (2)T-33 acft nrs. 454 & 100	-do-	P60,000.00
Lot 02-060-01: two (2) T-33 acft nrs.688 & 547	-do-	P12,000.00
Lot IID - assorted acft parts	-do-	P44,045.00
Lot IIID –assorted acft parts	-do-	P82,892.00
Lot I – 1: F-8H aircraft nr 302	420th SW, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga	P1.5M
Lot I – 2: F-8H aircraft nr 307	-do-	P1.5M
Lot I – 3: F-8H aircraft nr 309	-do-	P1.5M
Lot I – 4: F-8H aircraft nr 311	-do-	P1.5M
Lot I – 5: F-8H aircraft nr 316	-do-	P1.5M
Lot I – 6: F-8H aircraft nr 317	-do-	P1.5M
Lot I – 7: F-8H aircraft nr 320	-do-	P1.5M
Lot I – 8: F-8H aircraft nr 322	-do-	P1.5M
Lot I – 9: consisting of the following: 8 units cannibalized acft carcasses; 19 units F-8H engines; 1 unit F-8H acft crashed; 10,669 Line Items F-8H parts; 723 line items assorted tools and equipment.	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga	P1.5M

REMINDERS TO BIDDERS:
1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding.
2. To submit bid in PAF official bid form.
3. Bid bond deposit is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the bid price.
4. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commence.
5. Buyers of F-8H aircraft and F-8H component items are required to submit an **"End Use - End User Certification"**
6. Additional information / request for inspection may be secured from the Disposal Unit, 420th SW, tel nr. (045) 599-2014/2015 loc. 6524
7. Pre-bid conference and Issuance of Bid Forms (P100.00 per set) will be on **12 Sept, 2002, 10:00 A.M. at 420th SW Conference** Room, 420th SW, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga

Inspection schedules will be as follows:

Items	Date	Time	Day	Location
T-28 & S-761 carcasses	21 Aug – 06 Sept,2002,	9:00 A.M – 3:00 PM	Mon to Fri	- SAO Office, 15th SW, Sangley Air Base, Cavite City
S-211 carcasses	26 Aug – 06 Sept,2002,	9:00 A.M – 3:00 PM	Mon to Fri	- 420th SW Liaison Off, Villamor Air Base,Pasay City
Blackhawk, T-33, Huey, aircraft carcasses, parts and other scrap	21 Aug – 11 Sept 2002,	9:00 A.M – 4:00 PM	Mon to Fri	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanca, Pampanga
T-28 & F-8H aircraft	21 Aug –11 Sept, 2002,	9:00 A.M.– 4:00 PM	Mon to Sat	420 Supply Wing, Clark Air Base, A.C. Pampanga

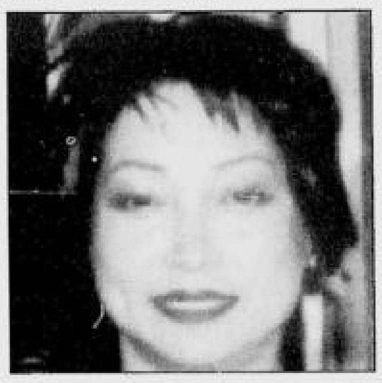
PAF DISPOSAL COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY FOUND THEREIN, AND TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE PAF.

PAF Disposal Committee

(Sgd.) **Col. CLAUDIO P ESTALILLA PAF (GSC)**
Wing Commander, 420th SW, PAF
Chairman

(PDI: Aug 17, 18, 19, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



CARMEN B. COLLANTES

This is to serve notice that **CARMEN B. COLLANTES**, a.k.a **Baby Collantes** or **Carmen Borromeo**, whose picture appears above, is no longer authorized to transact business for and on behalf of Renaissance Enterprises Corp., operator of **Trivia Restaurant** (formerly Vintage Bar and Restaurant) and of Titicaca View Holdings, Inc. operator of **Decades Bar and Restaurant, Morato, Quezon City**.

Ms. Collantes is presently facing criminal charges for Qualified Theft before Regional Trial Court of Quezon City, Branch 82 and for Robbery before the Quezon City Prosecution Office.

Any transaction entered into by said individual on behalf of the 2 Companies within the last 12 months from date hereof should be immediately referred to the Management thereof for evaluation as to its authenticity and validity.

(PDI – Aug. 18 & 19, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

PETER PAUL Y. QUE

Criminal Case No. 98-03-1114
MTC Branch 2, Cagayan de Oro City

Warrant of Arrest had been issued against the above-named person formerly of Technogas Corporation and China North Industries Zhanjiang Corp.

Any information leading to the arrest of the above named person will be rewarded.

Please contact Tel. Nos.
(08822) 729066 and (088) 8571779
Cell No. 0917-7062173 Denvi
Look for Kysner or Jay
(Mla) 875-0057; Cell No. 0917-8469690
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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

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Notice is hereby given to the public that, with the consolidation of Loyola Plans, Inc. (LPI) and Loyola Education System, Inc. (LESI) into **LOYOLA PLANS CONSOLIDATED, INC.**, effective September 1, 2002. LOYOLA PLANS CONSOLIDATED, INC. will not honor as genuine, valid, or binding all receipts, application forms, and all other accountable forms of LPI and LESI that do not bear the seal and/or logo of LOYOLA PLANS CONSOLIDATED, INC.

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East Avenue, Quezon City
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I. **Adult Cardiology**
   - 3 years Residency in Internal Medicine accredited by PCP
   - PCP Diplomate

II. **Pediatric Cardiology**
   - 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
   - at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics by the PPS

III. **Thoracic And Cardiovascular Surgery**
   - 5 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS
   - must have passed certifying examination given by the PBS (Board eligible / Diplomate)
   - at least qualified to take PBS certifying examination and the submission of satisfactory results of the in-service training examinations

IV. **Pulmonary Medicine**
   - PCP Diplomate

V. **Anesthesiology**
   - 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)
   - 3 month (October to December) pre-fellowship (except for graduates of the Philippine Heart Center Anesthesia Residency Program)

VI. **1 Year Clinical Research Fellowship for** Non-Invasive Cardiology, Invasive Cardiology, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Critical Care Medicine, Electrophysiology, Peripheral Vascular Medicine, Pediatric Invasive & Non-Invasive Cardiology, Thoracic & Cardiovascular Surgery and Pulmonary Medicine
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II. Nuclear Medicine
III. Biological and Clinical Laboratory (Pathology)

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1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different Doctors specifically the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous training programs)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:

JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

** Deadline for submission of application is on August 31, 2002*
** Academic Year 2003 starts on January 1, 2003*

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion (cp# 09196239902) or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia (cp# 09207645273) with Te. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

(PDI--Aug. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 & 21, 2002)

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EasyCall 141-267284
Mr. Rodolfo D. Gregorio
263 Rizal Street, Tarcan, Baliwag, Bulacan
Tel. No (044) 766-1280
Office: Care Communications
Baliwag Shopping Center
2nd Floor BMG Building, Barrera Street
Poblacion, Baliwag, Bulacan
Cell No (0919) 407-0046
Cabanatuan City
Mr. Ruel Capule
#7 Santander Street, Kapt. Pepe Subdivision
Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel No (044) 463-0823
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E-mail sbaybay@msc.edu.ph
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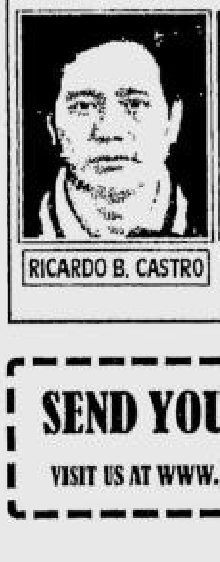
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



RICARDO B. CASTRO

The "Public" is hereby given notice that any one who has information regarding the whereabouts of RICARDO B. CASTRO whose picture appears and whose last known address is #7 FATIMA STREET, ABA HOMES, ANTIPOLO CITY, is requested to contact our Legal Department at Tel Nos.: 899-9595 or 896-4743

Likewise, any information that would lead to the immediate recovery of the herein-below described motor vehicle which is presently mortgaged with YL Finance Corporation will be REWARDED.

MAKE/ TYPE	: MITS. L-200 PICK-UP	MOTOR NO.	: 4D56A M2922
MODEL	: 2002	PLATE NO.	: XDN 262
CHASIS	: PAEK64TJ82B0012	COLOR	: MID. BLACK

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HERMINIA DIONIO EMPALMADO

Peacefully passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on August 18, 2002 at the age of 87.

Her bereaved husband **LUCRECIO BRION EMPALMADO;**
Her loving children **ALEJANDRO & NORA GUTANG**
CORAZON & BENNY CALAGUI
NELSON & CELINA UNSON
BENITO & SONIA DELA RAMA
RICO & LETICIA DAAMO
MARIAM
Grandchildren **ANGELIQUE**
BENEDICT & MICHELLE HAPSTALL
BERNARD, BENJAMIN, BOB BERTHRAM,
BARRY FRANCIS
NOLAN CARLO, NEVIN CONRAD
GWENDOLYN, BEULAH,
BENSON LUKE
RENEE LYNN

Other relatives and friends request for prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Chapel E,
Loyola Memorial Chapels,
Guadalupe, Makati City.

Her remains will be transferred to Gingoog City on Wednesday, 21 August 2002.

Interment arrangements will be announced later.

NELLY DE JESUS ATIENZA

Died peacefully in the presence of her loved ones, and joined her husband
Former Congressman and Mayor HERMENEGILDO J. ATIENZA of Manila,
in the Grace of our Lord on August 18, 2002 at the age of 94.

Her bereaved children **Dr. Rosie Cantos, Hermenegildo, Jr.** (†), **Benny** (†), **Nelia, Lita** and **Bobby**; and in-laws **Dr. Arsenio Cantos, Corazon de Jesus, Lina Lozano, Bomby Cruz** (†), **Rosie Abaya, Ralph Castillo** and **Luchie Banares**; brothers and sister, grandchildren and great grandchildren, great great grandchildren celebrate her eternal rest with her Lord Jesus Christ.

Her remains lie in state at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, August 21, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

Message of Thanks

The family of the late

ISMAELA "MELY" M. CASTAÑEDA

Retired Teacher of Mandaluyong Elementary School

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on August 5, 2002

sincerely thank all those who offered Masses and Prayers,
sent flowers and messages of sympathy, gave generous gifts,
visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites,
extended their support and services in countless ways,
and who condoled and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.
We are truly grateful.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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People, Events & Products

MasterCard's 'priceless' campaign continues to reap honors

MASTERCARD International earned a Gold Effie at the 2002 Effie Awards Show held in New York City and recently captured The People's Choice Award at the Financial Communications Society Portfolio Awards Dinner.

MasterCard's Gold Effie award, which came in the "Sustained Success" category, honors its Priceless campaign which made its debut in 1997. According to Effie judges, "As a result of the Priceless campaign, MasterCard continues to enjoy unprecedented brand and business momentum." This marks the second Gold Effie MasterCard's Priceless campaign has earned as it captured Gold in 1999.

Earlier, MasterCard International was recognized by the Financial Communications Society during its FCS Portfolio Awards ceremony. MasterCard executions entitled "Doctor's Office", "The Trip Finale" and "Concert", earned the company the People's Choice Award.

"These awards are a tribute to the strategic alliance between MasterCard International and its agency McCann-Erickson," said Larry Flanagan, chief marketing officer, MasterCard International. "As we celebrate our fifth year of Priceless, it's a true honor to be recognized for outstanding creative that delivers strong results."

MasterCard's Priceless campaign, launched in October 1997, is now seen in 90 countries and 45 languages around the world. With more than 24 million acceptance locations, no card is accepted in more places and by more merchants than the MasterCard Card. For 2001, gross dollar volume exceeded US$986 billion. MasterCard can be reached through its World Wide Web site at www.mastercard.com.

Locally, MasterCard has launched its latest promotion, MasterCard's Priceless Delights, which is also leveraged on the Priceless advertising campaign. Open to all MasterCard and MasterCard Electronic cardholders in the Philippines, Priceless Delights offers MasterCard cardholders chances of winning any or all of three sets of prizes: ticket premiums, instant gift items, and cash credits. The promotion is now ongoing exclusively at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Ortigas and Power Plant at Rockwell in Makati.

The Effie selection process consists of panels of senior advertising and marketing executives spending a full two days reviewing detailed campaign case studies. The judging panels change from year to year. This year, over 300 executives participated. Gold, silver and bronze Effies are awarded based on highest scores within 43 categories. The grand Effie winner is then determined by the highest total. The Effie Awards are the only national awards that honor advertising effectiveness: advertising that meets or exceeds stated, measurable objectives. The Effies, now in its 34th year, are presented annually by the New York American Marketing Association. The Marketing Hall of Fame, founded in 1993, honors pioneering achievements in the building of brands over time. For more information visit www.nyama.org or www.effie.org.

GMA DINES WITH BOMBO RADYO EXECUTIVES

Bombo Radyo Philippines' top honchos have dinner with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the Music Room of the Malacañang Palace July 29. To Ms Macapagal's left is Rogelio M. Florete, the network's president and chief executive officer.

ePLDT, NCC SIGN MOU

ePLDT, the information and communications technology company of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Computer Center to support the latter in the realization of the government's e-governance initiatives. NCC is the government's lead agency in the development of IT projects. Shown are (from left) Arlyn Lavarias, ePLDT senior marketing manager, Ariel Roda, ePLDT managing director; Delfin Jay Sabido IX, NCC director general, and Teresita Roberto, NCC director for IT consulting and services.

'GEOTOUR' THE COKE PAVILION

The Coca-Cola Pavilion opens after renovations in time for the plant visit season this school year 2002-2003. The Geological Society of the Philippines (GSP) held its annual 'Geotour', a family day for all members, at the Coca-Cola Pavilion. Coca-Cola Pavilion supervisor Yasmin Diangson (center, in shirt jack) shows guests the Philippine map showcasing all the bottling plants of Coca-Cola. The activity also enables the children to be more familiar with Philippine geography. Children of the members specifically enjoyed the science-related interactive exhibits at the Pavilion. The exhibits have been redesigned and new museum items have been added for display. Those interested to visit the Coca-Cola Pavilion can call (049) 541-3671.

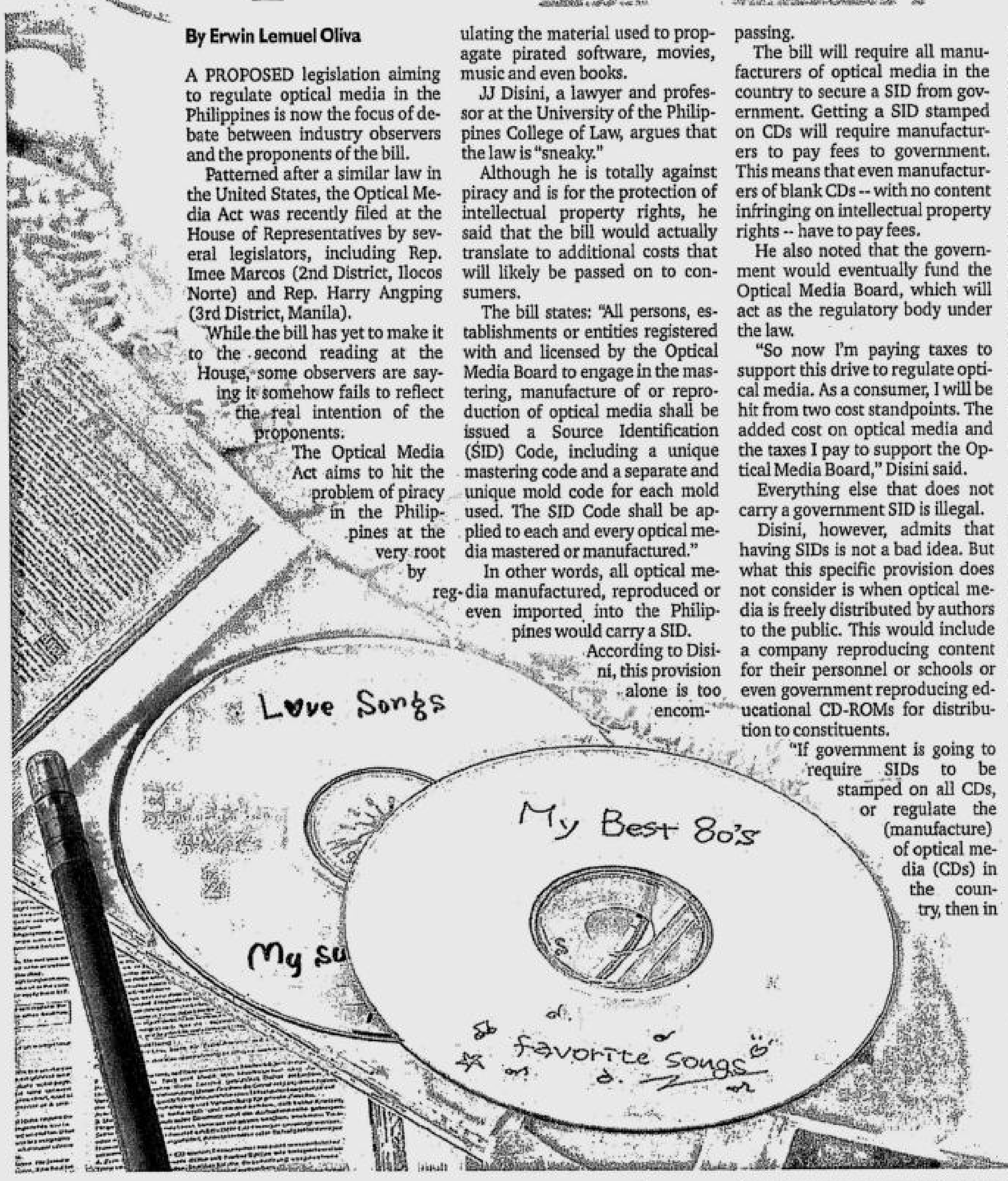
SUMMIT SCHOOL AT THE BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY

Summit School president Severina Santos and Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) president and CEO Rufo Colayco sign a memorandum of agreement establishing Summit School at the Bonifacio Global City. BCDA's Isaac Puno (standing, right) and Amador Palugod Jr. witness the signing. Summit, a progressive elementary school, is patterned after the Bank Street School for Children in New York. It will open in June 2003. Call 818-2145 for confirmation

A TOAST TO NEW BEGINNINGS

The Japanese Information Technology Standard Examination of the Philippines (Jitse-Phil), a globally recognized certification exam that aims to help Filipino IT students and professionals build and establish employment in Japanese companies here and abroad, recently welcomed the incoming 1st Secretary and Commercial Attache of the Japanese Embassy Ken Saito (center) held at the Tower Club in Makati City. Present during the private gathering are (from left) Gus Lagman, Yuki Sakai, Yoshimasa Sakai, outgoing 1st Secretary and Commercial attache; Maricor M. Akol, president of Jitse-Phil Foundation, Rey David and Shinichiro Kato. Jitse-Phil Foundation, a Filipino-Japanese non-government organization, is the implementing arm of the Jitse-Phil Certification Program

Optical media bill scrutinized



By Erwin Lemuel Oliva

A PROPOSED legislation aiming to regulate optical media in the Philippines is now the focus of debate between industry observers and the proponents of the bill.

Patterned after a similar law in the United States, the Optical Media Act was recently filed at the House of Representatives by several legislators, including Rep. Imee Marcos (2nd District, Ilocos Norte) and Rep. Harry Angping (3rd District, Manila).

While the bill has yet to make it to the second reading at the House, some observers are saying it somehow fails to reflect the real intention of the proponents.

The Optical Media Act aims to hit the problem of piracy in the Philippines at the very root by regulating the material used to propagate pirated software, movies, music and even books.

JJ Disini, a lawyer and professor at the University of the Philippines College of Law, argues that the law is "sneaky."

Although he is totally against piracy and is for the protection of intellectual property rights, he said that the bill would actually translate to additional costs that will likely be passed on to consumers.

The bill states: "All persons, establishments or entities registered with and licensed by the Optical Media Board to engage in the mastering, manufacture of or reproduction of optical media shall be issued a Source Identification (SID) Code, including a unique mastering code and a separate and unique mold code for each mold used. The SID Code shall be applied to each and every optical media mastered or manufactured."

In other words, all optical media manufactured, reproduced or even imported into the Philippines would carry a SID.

According to Disini, this provision alone is too encompassing.

The bill will require all manufacturers of optical media in the country to secure a SID from government. Getting a SID stamped on CDs will require manufacturers to pay fees to government. This means that even manufacturers of blank CDs -- with no content infringing on intellectual property rights -- have to pay fees.

He also noted that the government would eventually fund the Optical Media Board, which will act as the regulatory body under the law.

"So now I'm paying taxes to support this drive to regulate optical media. As a consumer, I will be hit from two cost standpoints. The added cost on optical media and the taxes I pay to support the Optical Media Board," Disini said.

Everything else that does not carry a government SID is illegal.

Disini, however, admits that having SIDs is not a bad idea. But what this specific provision does not consider is when optical media is freely distributed by authors to the public. This would include a company reproducing content for their personnel or schools or even government reproducing educational CD-ROMs for distribution to constituents.

"If government is going to require SIDs to be stamped on all CDs, or regulate the (manufacture) of optical media (CDs) in the country, then in effect, all CDs in the local market should bear a SID. So even if the use is not related to (the protection of) intellectual property, it will bear the SID. Therefore, these type of CDs are then subject to regulation," Disini explains.

Proponents of the law, however, explained that the bill aims to regulate the "container" which carries the infringing or illegal content, according to an official working under the House trade and industry committee under Representative Angping. The official who declined to be named, said that the SID aims to help the government identify optical media which contains illegally copied content.

"CDs without the code are probably illegal," she stressed.

She said that the SIDs would reduce piracy using optical media because the government can now check against its database the SIDs that are duly licensed by the Optical Media Board which would be created in the future should the bill be passed as a law.

"The trade and industry committee believes that if there's no supply of illegal CDs with probable illegal content, then no one will buy them," she added.

Disini, however, pointed to the repercussions of making SIDs mandatory to all manufacturers or importers of CDs to the Philippines.

"This is not a neutral regulation of CDs. This is a way to regulate access to intellectual property, or IP goods. What is the rationale for regulating CDs? It is not even harmful to our health. CDs have been used for piracy. But think of the other uses of CD that are harmful. I could not think of any," Disini said.

Disini said that the intent of the bill is to regulate access to intellectual property, which is contrary to what the proponents of the law are saying.

Optical media is defined as "any recordable medium or device on which information, including sounds, images or any combination of both, fixed or unfixed, or software code, is stored, including various disc formats in any technical variation now known or still to be known in the future, which may be accessed and read using a lens scanning mechanism employing a high intensity light source such as a laser or such other means as may be developed."

These proposed regulations cover optical media like CDs, CD-ROM, CD-R, CD-RW, DVD, DVD-R and others.

"Let's take their analogy of regulating the 'container.' If they are saying that the law is about regulating the container and not the content, then there is no stopping Congress from regulating the use of network routers where infringed content such as music and video, pass," Disini said. "Let's say a technology is developed where a router is able to know that a packet (of data) is an MP3 file or video. Then Congress could say that Internet service providers could only use those kinds of routers. In this instance, they can say that Congress is not after protecting intellectual property but are just after regulating Internet service providers. They are just regulating equipment. But clearly, the intention (of the bill) is to regulate access to intellectual property goods such as movies, music, etc."

Disini stressed that the proponents the Optical Media Act could not claim that the bill is not related to protecting intellectual property. Apart from protecting intellectual property rights, he said that Congress has no other reason to pass a law that would regulate optical media.

"I don't see any reason but I'll be glad to see a reason. I don't

OPTICAL/ p. B21

Picture messages, e-mail seen driving MMS growth

By Joel D. Pinaroc

WHILE multimedia messaging service or MMS covers a broad spectrum of services—from graphics, audio and video, and Internet services delivered over mobile telephones—sending and receiving picture messages and mobile e-mail are seen as two of the key features that will drive the growth of MMS in the Philippines in the same level or beyond, as the immensely popular short messaging system or SMS.

According to Antonio Pio de Roda, managing director of network firm Nortel Networks, the Filipinos' fondness of taking photographs of just about everything, and being able to immediately show these photos to friends and families, will spark the demand for MMS, and eventually the demand for high-speed communication networks that will be able to handle this data-intensive service.

"I think the next application that will reach the level of SMS will be MMS, particularly the ability to send and receive photos over a user's mobile phone," De Roda said.

He added that faster e-mail, which will complement picture messaging over the wireless network, will also be a compelling reason for buyers to switch to MMS-enabled phones and services.

Although the market penetration of mobile phones in the country is pegged at around 25 percent, millions of text messages, as SMS is more popularly known, are being sent to and fro daily by an estimated 12 to 13 million mobile phone users in the country.

This 25-percent penetration is just the tip of the iceberg, and if prices of MMS-enabled phones will go down, and a cost-effective pricing scheme for general packet radio service or GPRS is drawn up, the figure is expected to go even higher.

GPRS is a new mobile communications standard that will be able to handle pictures, audio, video clips and advanced graphics.

According to De Roda, the two top players in the mobile telephone space are still in the testing stage of their high-speed infrastructures, such as GPRS.

"Right now, the top two mobile communications players are still testing the waters as far as high-speed communications networks are concerned. Considering that these two companies have invested billions of pesos in setting up their infrastructures, there will have to be a waiting period," De Roda said.

Both Smart and Globe have announced the availability of their respective GPRS service, although the rates for the service are yet to be announced. Mobile telephone makers Nokia and Sony have already released their respective MMS-enabled phones in the Philippine market.

Being a network infrastructure firm, Nortel will also benefit from this anticipated trend, as the popularity of MMS will also drive the need for new communications technology, such as Third Generation (3G) communication networks, in which Nortel is a major player.

"Of course, Nortel will be ready, once the need for new and more advanced communications technologies, such as 3G, in the Philippines increases," De Roda said.

Warcraft III: What will your . . .

From p. B22

quels don't usually end up better than the previous ones and sometimes ruin whatever was already built.

But in the case of Warcraft 3, the sequel seems to have overshadowed the success of its predecessors.

Beyond the gripping story this top-selling PC game offers, Warcraft 3 is for players looking for replay factor. The cut-scenes between campaigns also provide you another reason to love this game. In fact, Blizzard has been selling a collector's edition that comes with a DVD of the game's cutscenes, and a book on concept drawings. The collector's edition costs more than P4,000, but the regular edition will set you back only P1,600.

One of the downsides of this game, however, is that you would need a powerful PC (with enough RAM, at least 128 MB, and video card memory), a decent Internet connection and a licensed copy of the game for online play, to really get pleasure from the game. You can theoretically play online with complete strangers on the Internet with a 56K connection, but don't expect anything spectacular. You need a cable modem connection or a DSL line to fully enjoy online play with Warcraft 3. Players have to log on to Blizzard's Battle.Net website (www.battle.net).

Also, we had to take coffee breaks during campaign plays. Some also noticed some degradation in game performance, but could be easily solved by lowering the resolution in the video options.

Overall, however, the game is just plainly addictive.

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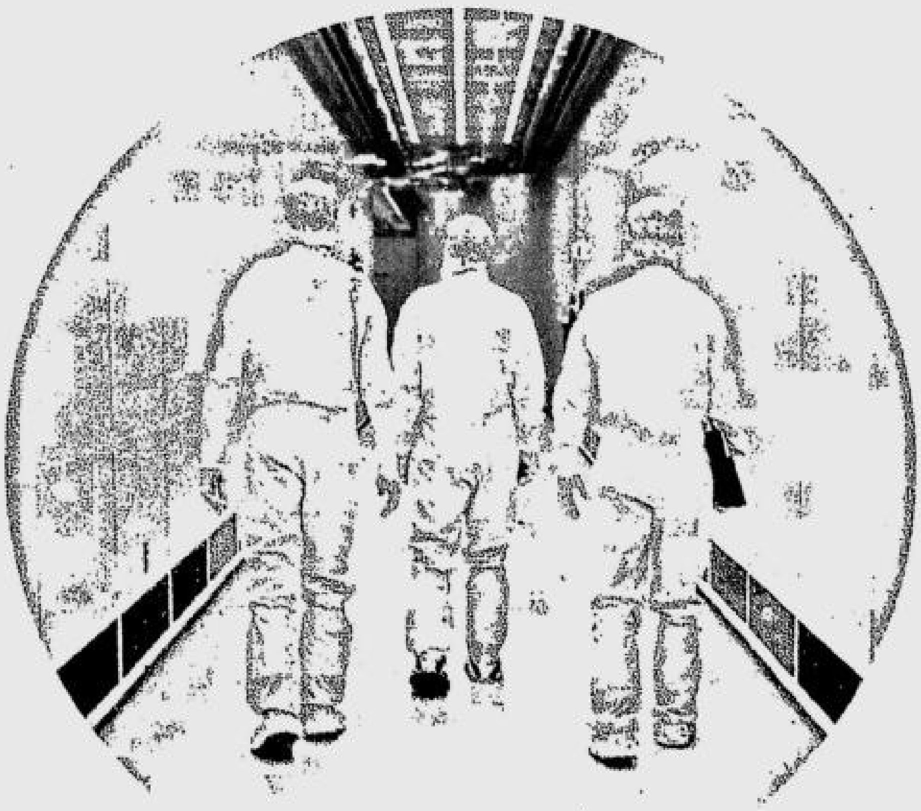

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INQ7.net unveils online home for OFWs

WHEREVER they may be, Filipinos all over the world are finding their way back home through INQ7.net, allowing them to share and experience events as a nation.

To address their specific needs, INQ7.net has launched a regular site for the overseas Filipino community called Global Nation at www.inq7.net/globalnation.

Offering user-driven content and customized services, Global Nation was spun off from INQ7.net's Philippine Independence Day online special. Now sporting a new look, Global Nation evolved into a regular site as a result of the support of the overseas Filipino community and INQ7.net's commitment to continue providing services tailored to their needs.

INQ7 Interactive Inc. is the joint-venture online company of the Philippine Daily Inquirer Inc. and GMA Network Inc.

One of the best examples of Global Nation's user-generated content is OFW Spotlight. This is INQ7.net's way of recognizing the contributions of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), who have been invited to submit their profiles and get the chance to be featured online.

"OFWs will keep visiting INQ7.net. Proof: Until now some people still send me e-mail (after being featured in OFW Spotlight)," said Linda Layosa. Layosa was a Bagong Bayani awardee in 1993. Based in Hong Kong, she worked as a domestic helper before becoming the editor of a magazine for OFWs. She now works for a Chinese business-to-business e-commerce company Texwatch.com, as the editor of its English news website.

Global Nation is also serving as a bridge to the Filipino-American community. Complementing INQ7.net's presence in the US trade exhibits of the Fil-Am community, the site is featuring updates on the Philippine Fiesta 2002, touted as the biggest Fil-Am event on the East Coast. This was held recently at the Meadowlands Exposition Center in Secaucus, New Jersey.

Throughout the world, Filipinos are forming thriving communities, making Philippine culture an important part of different societies. Thanks to them, Global Nation is becoming the home of Filipinos overseas—their virtual home away from home.

Optical media bill scrutinized . . .

From p. B19

know of any reason. They're saying they are after the big-time pirates. But pirates are related to intellectual property. Optical media is not only used for intellectual property purposes but largely for non-intellectual property purposes as well," he said.

The proponents of the law indeed claim that the bill is after mass manufacturers of pirated CDs.

"The law aims to regulate the entry of equipment and materials used in the manufacture of CDs and other optical media" which are often used by pirates, said the official from the House trade and industry committee.

Indeed, the bill states "any and all equipment, machine, device now known or to be known in the future, intended or designed for the production of optical discs, optical disc masters, or production" would be subject to regulation by the government.

Disini argued: "What if I'm somebody who wants to make CDs, and I don't want to enforce my intellectual property rights on it? Say, a promotional CD of a company. If people would copy that, for instance, it is OK. Why should I need SIDs if I'm going to give it away? Why will I be prohibited from getting lower-cost CDs? Are they saying that there is a quality issue? Are they saying that regulation results in better quality CDs? That's market-driven, because people have a choice now. I don't see how this law addresses that issue. The only thing that I can see is that this law protects intellectual property rights owners."

Disini said that the current Philippine laws already give necessary protection to IP rights owners. Therefore, for Congress to argue that the bill is only after regulating equipment is all but suspect.

Another contentious point in the bill is the role of the OMB.

According to the bill, the OMB has the power to go after intellectual property rights violators even without a complaint from the owner.

"Government will help IP owners protect their rights," the official of the trade and committee of the House of Representatives, said.

The OMB will be the agency given quasi-judicial powers to enforce the provisions of the bill.

According to the bill's policy, "unregulated reproduction, manufacture and distribution of optical media in all forms is inimical to economic growth and public interest."

Therefore, the proponents of the bill believe the government should institute all means to regulate this modern-day medium for storing all types of information ranging from music and movies to software applications and games.

Disini, however, disagrees, saying that the bill somehow attempts to "short-circuit the process by saying there is no need for a complainant to come out."

"Government can merely look at the optical media being sold and say that these CDs are pirated," Disini added.

The Optical Media Board will be the one in charge of issuing SIDs to manufacturers as well as importers.

"What will happen now is that government—by virtue of this bill—can now protect the IP rights of owners who don't even care to protect their IP rights. This is a bad example. But let's take Art Film for example. I doubt if those French producers even care to enforce their intellectual property rights in the Philippines. The market is too small. It is not worth it to sue in this market. In the cost-benefit analysis, they won't pursue it," Disini said. "So what will happen now is that government will pursue their IP rights on their behalf. Government will pursue the protection of private, commercial interests in their behalf -- and who will pay for it -- Filipinos? It doesn't make any sense."

Disini said that if IP rights holders want their IP rights protected, they should pay more for protection.

He argued that the government is not obligated to protect that right. The Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines already gives ample protection to IP rights owners.

"So if you're not interested in protecting your IP right, why will government protect it?" Disini said.

The bill, he added, should instead state that the intellectual property owners should pay more if they want to get added protection.

"If a CD stamping facility is going to manufacture CDs that will be used for IP purposes, then the IP owners could require that those CDs bear SIDs. What this means is that the owners themselves have this extra right. To be more specific, if the owner wants to have protection, he can opt to pay extra and get the SID," the lawyer said.

With SID, CD stamping facilities will be now forced to comply with requirements of the law. But IP owners will have to pay for this extra protection, he suggested.

"The advantage here is that he can tell the police/government that any CD that belongs to me and that I produce but does not bear a SID is illegal because all my CDs bear SIDs. The law can be narrowly construed that way," he added.

He pointed out that the government cannot presume that a person selling CDs, say, on the streets, is not licensed.

Under existing laws, intellectual property rights owners will have to inform the government that this person or group is violating their intellectual property rights. Only after that can the government act because there is evidence that an IP right has been infringed, Disini noted.

Currently, the bill is being pushed in Congress by agencies like the Intellectual Property Office, the Videogram Regulatory Board and other agencies involved in the protection of intellectual property rights in the country.

Keyboard shortcuts in Microsoft Excel

POWERTIPS

By Jerry Liao

TO QUICKLY highlight columns and rows in MS Excel, perform the following steps:

(1) To highlight column, select the column then press Ctrl + Spacebar

(2) To highlight rows, select the row then press Shift + Spacebar

(3) To highlight the entire worksheet, press Ctrl + Shift + Spacebar

To quickly hide/unhide columns and rows, do the following steps:

(1) To hide column, select the column then press Ctrl + 0 (zero)

(2) To show column, select the column to unhide then press Ctrl + Shift +)

(3) To hide row, select the row then press Ctrl + 9

(4) To show row, select the row to unhide then press Ctrl + Shift + 9.

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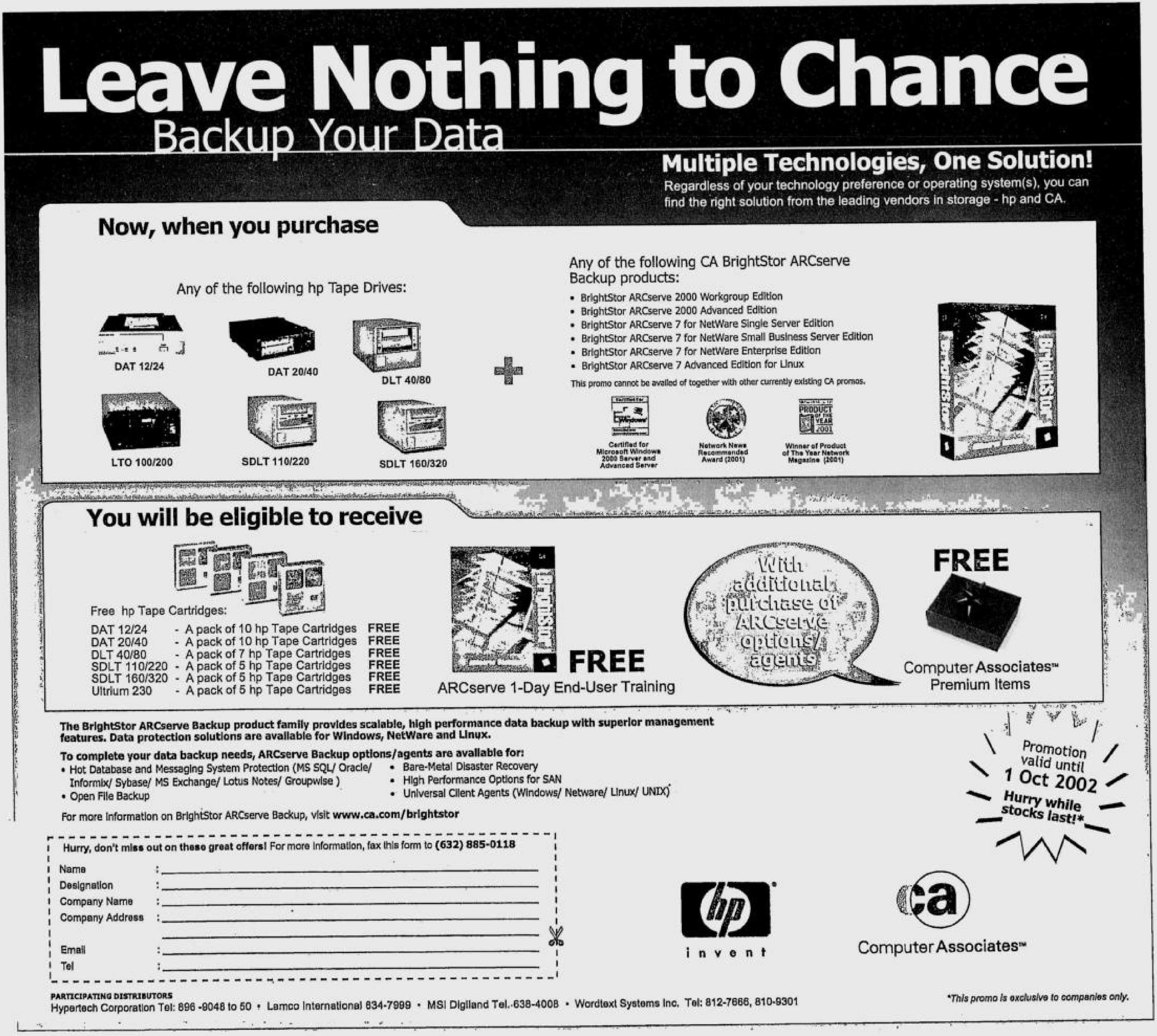

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Editor **Leo Magno**

WARCRAFT III
REIGN OF CHAOS

What will your legend be?

By [illegible] Oliva and Lord Allessi

THE ORIGINAL Warcraft—in all its two-dimensional splendor—was one of the most popular games ever played (note: the credit for the first real RTS or real-time strategy game goes to Dune 2). The storyline back then was interesting, but the graphics and sound were, well, crude.

So our PCs were gathering dust until recently when Warcraft 3: The Reign of Chaos came along.

Unlike its predecessors, Warcraft 3: The Reign of Chaos takes real-time strategy games to the next level as it introduces players to things like upkeep—or a form of tax slapped on resources collected—and heroes, which one has to protect from sinister enemies lusting to kill them.

Players of the original Warcraft and Warcraft 2 would find many more changes in Warcraft 3, graphically and gameplay-wise.

If you want to jump to the multiplayer aspect of Warcraft 3, you'll see that Blizzard has masterfully made it very much different from previous Warcraft games—but still lets players make use of what they learned playing previous versions.

In fact, Warcraft is not just a game that lets you routinely build your units and send them to your enemies, but actually makes you think more on how to manage units and resources, while staging your next offense/defense, like a real military tactician.

A website, for instance, providing some tips on W3 strategy was prescribing tactics very similar to Sun Tzu's Art of War: Know your enemy, the terrain, and whatnot.

The game also provides a wider virtual terrain where you can actually rush the bases of multiple enemies controlled by other players living literally in another continent, say the United States or Korea.

Taking cue from online games like EverQuest, Blizzard has also created a free (well, at least for now) online gaming arena called Battle.net for newbies or the hardest of the hardcore.

Once logged on to one of the servers in the United States or Asia, the game picks opponents that fit your level and skill. But be warned that some enemies love to play possum!

For those who don't have access to the Internet, W3 also provides an option to play the game on a local area network (the original Warcraft provided players a glimpse at multiplayer gaming).

This option, however, we still have to try.

If you're looking for an engaging play, W3 provides an intriguing story that takes off from previous stories told by earlier versions, but be ready to say hello to sleepless nights.

Here are some spoilers: the game begins with a beautifully rendered war scene between the humans and the Orcs, a horde of blood-lusting creatures. Dubbed the Second War, the battle ends with the Orcs being defeated and captured. Although some have apparently managed to escape, and were preparing to launch another attack on prisons where Orcs have been held captive by humans.

After nearly 13 years of peace, a young Orc who was raised by a human, eventually realizes his calling, and is bent on saving the imprisoned Orcs from human internment camps, and eventually creating an army strong enough to defeat the humans.

As the story progresses, you will meet Thrall, the young Orc warchief, and Arthas, the only son of human King Terenas who will eventually lead a powerful—well, we will stop there before we spoil more things for you.

Like the Terrans, Protoss, and Zergs—races of differing strengths and weaknesses—in another Blizzard title, Starcraft, W3 introduces you to two new races apart from the Human Alliance and Orcish Horde: the Elfish Sentinels (Night Elves) and the Undead Scourge.

Each race differs from each other, but they all need to collect lumber and gold before you can launch an attack on an enemy or enemies.

Old and new players will be more familiar with the Human Alliance since they have the most basic game style. The peasants gather resources, and they also build structures. The Humans' strength lies in their balanced ground and aerial attack units and sturdy buildings. Strategy websites, in fact, advise that defensive players use this race.

Players looking for brute strength in close-combat situations should look no further than the Orcs. They are the most feared race when it comes to attacking bases since their tough build can withstand powerful attacks, which makes up for their lack of good range and aerial units.

We advise newbies to use Orcs for rush attacks.

Even the most capable Warcraft players may have to study the Night Elves or the Undead.

PC

We review this game on the PC

While Night Elves lack melee attacks, they compensate with range attacks and spellcasting, plus some regenerative properties.

On the other hand, the Undead are the most feared and perhaps the most annoying among the races in the game.

They are a cross between the Humans and Night Elves since they can build strong units and cast dark magic. Their most insidious ability is to raise any dead unit, friend or foe, and turn them into walking corpses and zombies. Anyone playing against the Undead has to be careful not to have any of their units killed in battle lest they end up fighting what used to be their own.

But we must warn you again that the Undead are not as fearsome as they appear.

Finally, one of the significant and interesting addition to Warcraft III is the Hero unit. These special characters were absent in Warcraft I and II.

Hero units are found in all four races. Basically, Warcraft Heroes are similar to the characters in Diablo, another Blizzard game, wherein you build the abilities of the character as you progress into the game.

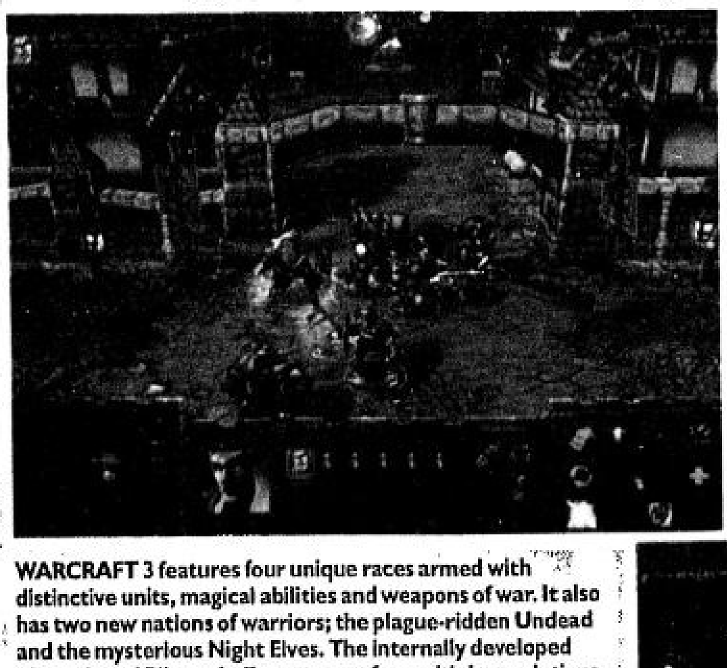
Each of the four races has around three Heroes that can be summoned at the same time. Hero abilities vary and the way they turn the tides of battle depends on how they are managed along with supporting attack units. In this case, it is not wise to just assign a Hero to a mixed band of units. Heroes can get killed in battle but they are given the ability to resurrect, at a cost. This takes time and much of the resources, though, so avoid getting your Heroes killed.

Other new and very important additions are the Upkeep and the Day/Night cycles. Upkeep gives players a way to macro-manage their resources. As your forces grow bigger, so do your requirements for keeping them well-maintained. Upkeep takes the form of taxes incurred on your gold resources, so if possible, have control of at least two goldmines to keep your gold reserves high and your forces well-maintained.

The Day/Night cycle brings tactical changes in Warcraft. With it, races can sneak through enemy detectors, infiltrate bases for reconnaissance, or even sabotage missions—an effective strategy for players who are slow in building their forces. Also, take note that battling at night decreases the accuracy of your attacking units, rendering them helpless against enemies who have better night capabilities.

So there you are. Just like in Hollywood movies, the se-

WARCRAFT/ p. B19



WARCRAFT 3 features four unique races armed with distinctive units, magical abilities and weapons of war. It also has two new nations of warriors; the plague-ridden Undead and the mysterious Night Elves. The internally developed 3D engine of Blizzard offers support for multiple resolutions and customizable detail settings.

BUSINESS*Monday*
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Like father, (not quite) like son

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE OLD hand at Prudentialife group who set up the firm by risking his own family's future, has turned over the reins of the firm to his son who was quite indifferent toward the business at the start.

It is a momentous decision for Francisco A. Alba who quit a job he was good at 23 years ago because of a broken promise. His people and associates loved him so much they egged him to start his own firm. And he did.

Beginning

It was in April 1978 when Alba, an orphan, together with six former employees of Loyola Memorial Plans—Jocelyn Bolante, Joaquin Barrios, Renier Gerochi, Luis Cupin, Vicente Baldevia, and Rene Pascual—opened Prudentialife's first office at the Bankmer building along Ayala Avenue.

He quit his job because the promised stock options never came.

Prudentialife started as a life plan (memorial plan) firm that eventually evolved into diversified businesses like educational plans, pension, travel and IT.

Initially, the group wanted to impart to consumers the message that "all we want is to bury them—and present how well we can bury them," according to Bienvenido Policarpio, SVP for marketing, in the book of the firm's history, "The Guiding Hands."

Initial strategy

The first strategy of the group was to first build outside Metro Manila as the big players had a monopoly of the metropolis. So the sales forces were rallied in Cebu, West Visayas and Davao.

It was not an easy start, and after two years the firm was in financial trouble. Alba had to mortgage his house and lot in 1981 to sustain the company's operations. At that time his wife was not working and his four children were still in school.

After about three years, the firm found out that the seeds they have planted were finally bearing fruit and things started looking up.

According to the book, Prudentialife broke even by the third year. But the biggest break came in 1982 when the Armed Forces of the Philippines gave the company an unprecedented cash sale worth P35 million, the single biggest pre-need sale in the industry then.

On its fifth year, it finally came to Manila. It acquired a building—its current office in Gamboa Street in Makati.

Today the Prudentialife Group has combined assets of P23 billion, over 1,000 regular employees, 30,000 sales counselors and 200 branches in 60 cities all over the country.

Adopting varied strategies

During the difficult economic and political times of the early '80s, Prudentialife offered pension plans which the market gobbled up.

During the improved years of the Aquino administration, they offered educational plans.

As cash flow came in at a fast clip, the firm diversified.

In 1987 it invested in the First Asia Realty Development Corp. which built the biggest mall in Metro Manila—SM Megamall and two years after, it bought a majority stake in La Funeraria Paz.

In 1990, it set up a travel agency and a travel plan was launched.

All through these years however, Frank Alba, the man born in Roxas City

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FRANK (seated) and Albert Alba

JOHNNY VILLENA

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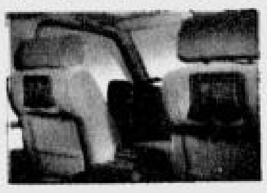

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RP non-life insurers may face reinsurance crisis in 2003

By Reynaldo A. de Dios
Contributor

EVEN prior to the World Trade Center (WTC) disaster last Sept. 11, 2001, the cost of reinsurance protection for the domestic non-life insurance sector was on the rise.

The WTC loss was the largest manmade loss in the history of insurance and its estimated claims range from $40 billion to $70 billion. As a result, Philippine non-life insurers had to pay much more in the renewal of their reinsurance treaties for 2002 especially on their excess of loss coverage.

Large industrial risks in Asia experienced premium rate increases from 110 percent to an astronomical 800 percent excluding the risk of sabotage and terrorism.

Also because of the global economic downturn and recent scandals in Corporate America, the equities listed in the world's stock exchanges comprising the investment portfolios of insurers and reinsurers have declined in value.

This took a toll on the net worth of many of the major insurers and reinsurers.

Further aggravating the situation are the enormous rise in claims against insurance companies that have issued directors and affirms liability policies and guarantee surety bonds for the high profile corporations that collapsed because of unethical and dishonest behavior.

All of these have substantially reduced the net worth of insurers and reinsurers such that there is now a critical shortage of good and quality reinsurance capacity. In other words, global reinsurers are now underwriting more carefully, more stringently and imposing tough terms and conditions including a co-sharing of losses incurred.

This translates into higher levels of deductibles or self-insurance for corporate insurance buyers while non-life insurers are likewise mandated to raise their levels of retentions on each and every risk before transferring the excess to reinsurers.

Just recently, one of the world's biggest reinsurance firm announced its serious intention to exclude coverage of natural perils in the traditional proportional reinsurance contracts (known as surplus treaties) but are inclined to provide protection only under excess of loss treaties.

In this manner, the reinsurer is positioned to control the pricing of the cover. The reasons for this move is that there is a high loss potential considering the fact that the Philippines is classified as one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world.

It is common knowledge that the Philippines is in an earthquake zone as well as being exposed to an annual average of 20 typhoons which causes heavy damage by strong winds, heavy rains and the resulting floods in low lying areas of both urban cities and provincial towns.

In the past, the premium rates for fire and natural perils cover have not been risk-adequate for the exposures of reinsurers. Actually, the biggest concern of the major reinsurers is the earthquake risk specifically in the Metro Manila area and Calabarzon as during the last several years, global underwriters have suffered considerable losses in earthquake-prone countries like Taiwan, Turkey, Japan, Greece and India.

From the records of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Philvocs), there were two major earthquakes that hit Metro Manila, one occurring in Aug. 2, 1968 and the other on April 26, 1972, both of which caused heavy damage to numerous buildings including the collapse of Ruby Tower in Binondo. Undoubtedly, the earthquake risk is infrequent and unpredictable but the potential loss can be extremely disastrous. Underwriters are looking at the earthquake risk from a global perspective and losses from this peril have to be spread globally and shared by all markets.

Just like the risk of sabotage and terrorism, it is likely that in the near future, insurance for natural perils will have to be purchased under separate policies at higher premium rate, limited amount of cover and high levels of deductible for both the insured and the insurer.

In some countries, the government acts as the reinsurer of last resort.

The landscape of reinsurance has changed dramatically in the last two years. There is now less capacity, higher premium pricing, emphasis on risk-sharing through increased deductibles and retentions as well as lower protection limits.

It is therefore prudent that the domestic non-life insurance sector prepare for the renewal of their renewal treaties for 2003 and consider giving advance notice to their valued clients of possible changes in their cost of risk particularly premium expenses.

A leading London reinsurance broking firm have recommended that non-life insurers demonstrate active risk management in their underwriting operations, obtain full knowledge of their client's business and their needs including the institution of effective and efficient claims control.

Lastly, they should collate all their underwriting data and information in the proper format to enable them to make comprehensive and quality presentations to global reinsurers with the assistance of reputable and qualified reinsurance brokers. Reinsurers normally react favorably to full transparency of a well-prepared presentation and will be more inclined to participate in a treaty.

Gone are the days when reinsurance capacity was readily available and unlimited as reinsurers are now allocating their acceptances vis-à-vis their resources and on the basis of the risk characteristics and profile of each individual insurer.

Definitely, these are not ordinary times for the Philippine non-life insurance industry.

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MAP pays tribute to the arts

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Cynthia V. Subijano

IT ALL started one fateful night last year when MAP National Issues Committee chair Evelyn Singson and friends went to Café Rizal where National Artist Levi Celerio was performing. Evelyn must have been taken by mixed feelings of admiration and compassion for Mang Levi who, at an advanced age of 92, would still perform and share his tremendous talent.

Evelyn thought of an idea to "pay back" this generous gem of a talent in Mang Levi—a MAP benefit show in his honor. His death last April 2 did not stop MAP from pursuing the show. MAPpers led by MAP president Ramon Dimacali lost no time in bringing in the big institutions to support the project.

CCP chair Baltazar Endriga, a fellow MAPper, brought in CCP president Nestor Jardin, Frances Alincastre of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and Jul Dizon of the Foundation for the Musical Filipino.

Susan Dimacali, the pretty and talented wife of Mon, brought in Nic Gabunada and Arnedo Lucas of ABS-CBN, who incidentally was also planning to mount a similar tribute. In our meetings, all these biggies in the field of the arts and entertainment showed so much enthusiasm in coming up with the benefit show that it was expanded to include Maestro Lucio San Pedro and Ka Atang de la Rama as well.

It was decided that the proceeds of the show should go toward the construction of a National Artists Museum at the CCP complex with a traveling component to bring the work of arts of our national artists to far-flung areas in the country.

And so, MAP is now ready to officially announce the culmination of months of planning—the birth of a show, a testimony that nationalism lives among us and is just waiting for the right vehicle to express itself.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines and the ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. will be leading the production of a musical entitled "Lagi Kitang Naaalala: Si Maestro, Si Ka Atang, Si Mang Levi" in cooperation with the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) and the NCCA.

The musical is a beautiful and star-studded one, with CCP's Chris Millado as director, that will feature the great compositions and works of these three icons of Philippine music. All three are national artists: Maestro Lucio San Pedro was a composer, Levi Celerio a prolific lyricist and Atang de la Rama a *zarzuelista*.

These are great Filipino talents whose contribution to music and art have enriched our culture, and enhanced the history and character of the Filipino.

The musical will showcase the songs of the national artists as performed by today's popular young artists. It will be held from Sept. 6-8, 2002, Friday to Sunday, at 8 p.m. at the CCP Main Theater. Because it would be a grand production, the CCP has decided to have it as the highlight of its 33rd anniversary celebration.

Living artists will be honoring our national artists and they are doing it out of love for country. Among the stars who will perform are Celeste Legaspi, Zsa-Zsa Padilla, Lani Misalucha, Calvin Millado, Karla Gutierrez, Rachel Alejandro, Randy Santiago, Jeffrey Hidalgo, Ciara Sotto, Franco Laurel, Kempee de Leon, Roselle Nava, JM Rodriguez, Tin Arnaldo, Diane dela Fuente, RJ Rosales, Piolo Pascual, Robert Seña, Bituin Escalante, Anna Fegi, Sylvia la Torre, Jaya, Elizabeth Ramsey, Isay Alvarez, among others.

Proceeds from the musical will be solely directed toward the establishment of a National Artists Museum at the CCP in honor of the 45 great Filipinos of different artistic disciplines. We are convinced that if we honor our national artists, who are heroes in the world of art, we can contribute to the building up of our confidence and pride in ourselves as a people.

The National Artists Museum will proudly display the greatness of many Filipinos to our youth and the general public. This project will invite nationalism among our youth and the awakening of their passion for the preservation and promotion of the country's cultural heritage.

The musical is a vehicle to generate the seed money to start work on the National Artists Museum and we in the MAP plan to organize a national artists series annually to continue the activity until we complete the project.

I encourage the readers of this column to fully support this very worthwhile project by watching and encouraging the youth to see the concert. This will enable you not only to contribute to the preservation of the Filipino cultural heritage but also to enjoy a star-studded production. The CCP and ABS CBN will make sure that you will see a memorable and entertaining production, sparing no talent, to bring to life the lifetime works of our three national artists for this first event in our national artists series.

Tickets are priced from P300 to P3,000. Group sales and students discounts are also available at the CCP ticket office (832-3681) and the MAP secretariat (751-1152 or 751-1149).

(The author is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines, project manager of the Tribute to National Artists Project and president of Solutions and Innovations Inc. The MAP secretariat and the author may be reached at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

Like father, (not quite) like son

From page A1

and whose first job after finishing accounting at the University of the East, was as a hardware store clerk, developed a close relationship with the Catholic Church.

The book emphasizes that hard work and prayers were the cornerstones of what has now grown to be a huge monument.

As his involvement with the church deepened, it was no surprise that he was appointed Ambassador to the Holy See.

Turning over

And with his entry into government, Frank turned over the reins of the company to eldest son, Albert.

Unlike his father, Jose Albert T. Alba has made some very costly mistakes in his life. Some P50 million worth in fact, stemming from three failed ventures in IT.

But since he is a son of the boss, he was not fired nor demoted.

But he took the mistakes to heart and strove to work hard and made sure he paid back for his mistakes by venturing into more lucrative ventures. And he did.

He was able to introduce varied technological changes in the group which increased efficiency. He also diversified operations and the new businesses are now heavy contributors to the company's bottom line.

Frank Alba knew that his son has the capability to propel the group into the increasingly competitive world of pre-need. And his viewpoint was backed by the company's board.

Albert was only 13 when his father set up Prudentialife. He was not particularly interested in what his old man was doing. Nor did Frank force him to learn the business.

Albert was more engrossed in numbers, which he says he always found easy to deal with.

A Blue Eagle all the way, he finished Management Engineering at the Ateneo in 1986.

He did not want to join his father. He preferred to work in a bank so he joined the then Far East Bank and Trust Co. (now merged into the Bank of the Philippine Islands) as a senior analyst in the Credit and Investment Research Group.

His main task was to evaluate credit of the bank's corporate clients and prepare studies for the bank's investments.

But his affair with banking was short-lived and duty called soon enough.

He says: "My dad won't force you but my mom talked me into it."

Albert made the move even if "I am more of a banker at heart. I like numbers and in college I excelled in finance."

He admits he was scared of joining Prudentialife. The pressure on him to prove himself was considerable.

He joined the Prudential Life Plan Group Inc., the holding company as SVP and treasurer/director and head of corporate planning, in 1987.

He was immediately given the task of cash management for the group and he handled investments worth over P4 billion.

As head of corporate planning, he was responsible for crafting the corporate strategy of Prudentialife affiliates.

From day one, his father left him on his own and did not look over his shoulder.

"He let me do my own thing," he says.

He immediately computerized the group's systems, introduced technology and automated functions. Perhaps it was his love for IT that made him venture into this field, albeit unsuccessfully, more than once.

Learning from mistakes

He tried it thrice but unfortunately things did not work out. One venture cost P30 million, the other two, P10 million each.

He reached a point where he knew he had to cut losses and he did.

He says his father did not scold him but trusted that he will learn from his mistakes. And learn he did.

Albert set up a credit card scheme for Prudentialife where plan holders were given credit cards. Although he says their card base is relatively small, the venture has been quite lucrative. It was also he who pushed for memorial parks and the group now has two—one in Iloilo and Tarlac.

Recently they set up memorial chapels at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque through a joint venture with the Yuchengcos.

Using his keen eye for finance, he pushed for a stop in the sale of traditional educational plans.

These plans guaranteed the payment of tuition fees at any cost upon the plan's maturity.

This scheme was proven very costly to pre-need firms because of government's move to deregulate tuition fee increases and it has become impossible to project the cost of education when the beneficiary reaches college.

Albert also set up a travel plan where consumers can buy a policy that will give them enough cash to travel after a certain time.

The future

Albert is not about to run out of ideas. He is also looking at tying up with a foreign firm to prepare the firm for globalization.

His father could not be happier.

Frank also wants to pursue expansion through the stock market for the Prudentialife group. He admits times are not conducive to do an initial public offering, maybe in two to three years.

But he admits too that he is very happy at how Albert has been managing the company.

He hopes the government will not overreact to all the reports about insufficiency of capital of pre-need firms, saying that too many rules "can kill the industry."

Asian Tiger sings mantra of change as it shakes off recession

SINGAPORE—The catchy music video has hogged primetime television slots as Singapore's National Day draws near. But the message is less jaunty.

"Remember the times, so fine, when we thought that nothing could stand in our way. Then things weren't the same, the life that we knew had to change," croons the doe-eyed singer.

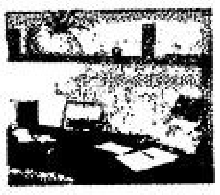
The city state of 4 million people, once a fierce Asian Tiger, is chanting a mantra of change as it shakes off its worst recession since 1964 and works on restructuring the economy to stay competitive.

Changes in tax and pension schemes have been unveiled but any real transformation in the political realm is remote as the long-ruling People's Action Party (PAP) keeps its grip on power.

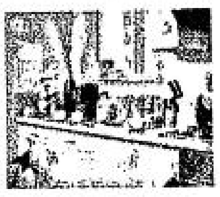
"A lot of urgency is still on economics," said civil rights activist Tan Chong Kee. "On the social front, it's much less."

Reuters

Come Home To Your Kind Of Life



HOME OFFICE PACKAGE



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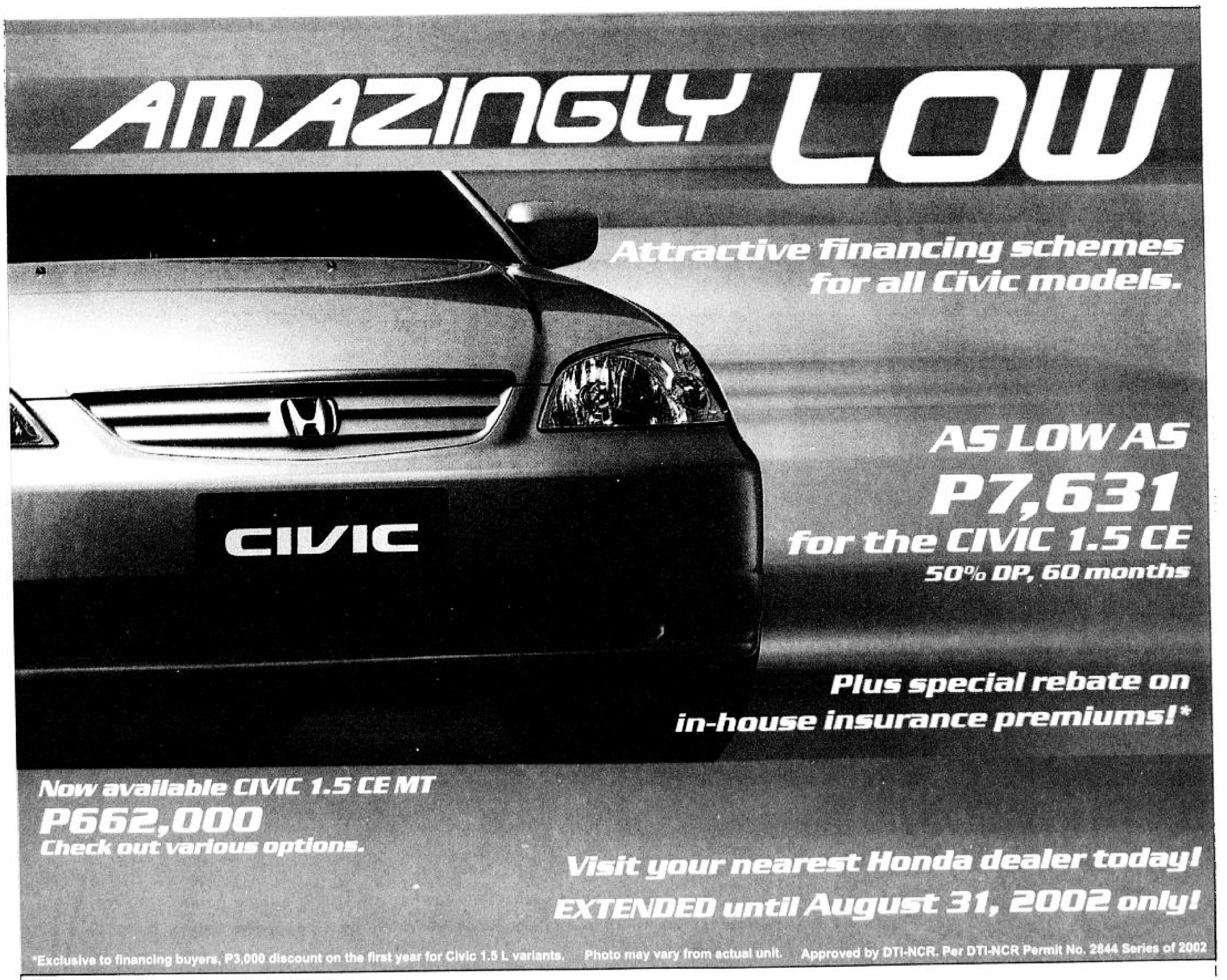
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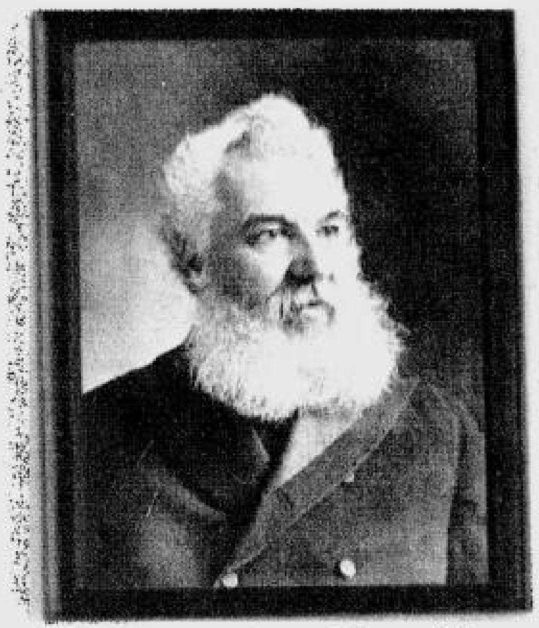

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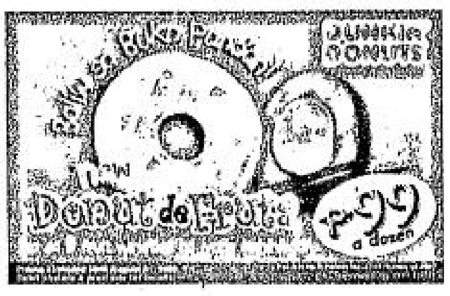
D1



TANGHALANG PILIPINO'S 'INSIANG'

From cinematic masterpiece to rare stage experience

MALOU de Guzman (left) portrays Pacing, the abusive mother of Insiang, played by Sheenly Gener, in Mario O'Hara's "Insiang."

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

MARIO O'Hara's widely acclaimed "Insiang," the disturbing drama about a 16-year-old slum girl's revenge against the stepfather who molested her, started as a radio program and a TV drama before winning a permanent niche as one of the best Filipino films of all time, directed by no less than the late legendary Lino Brocka.

FROM CINEMATIC/ p.D8

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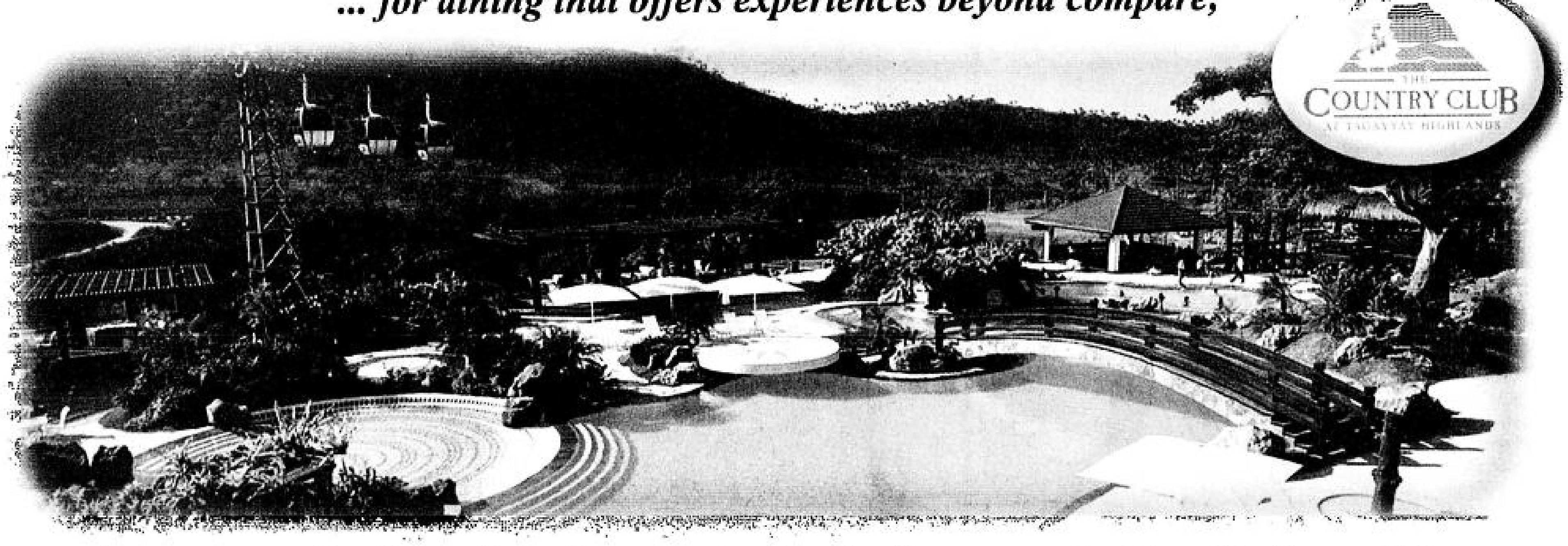

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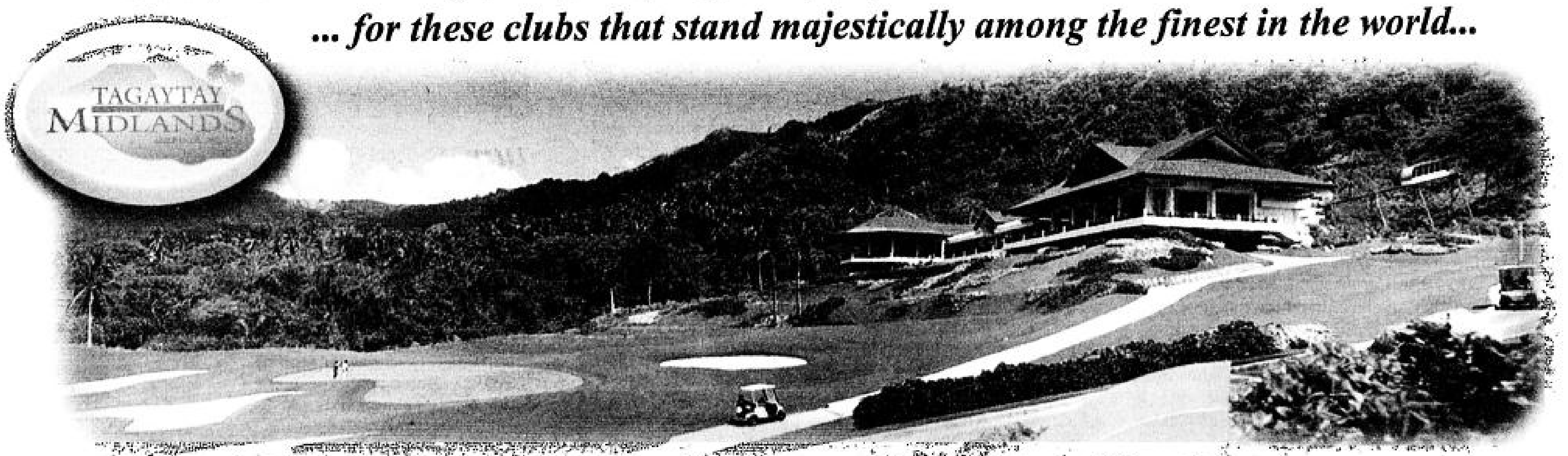

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An acoustic shell for St. Cecilia's

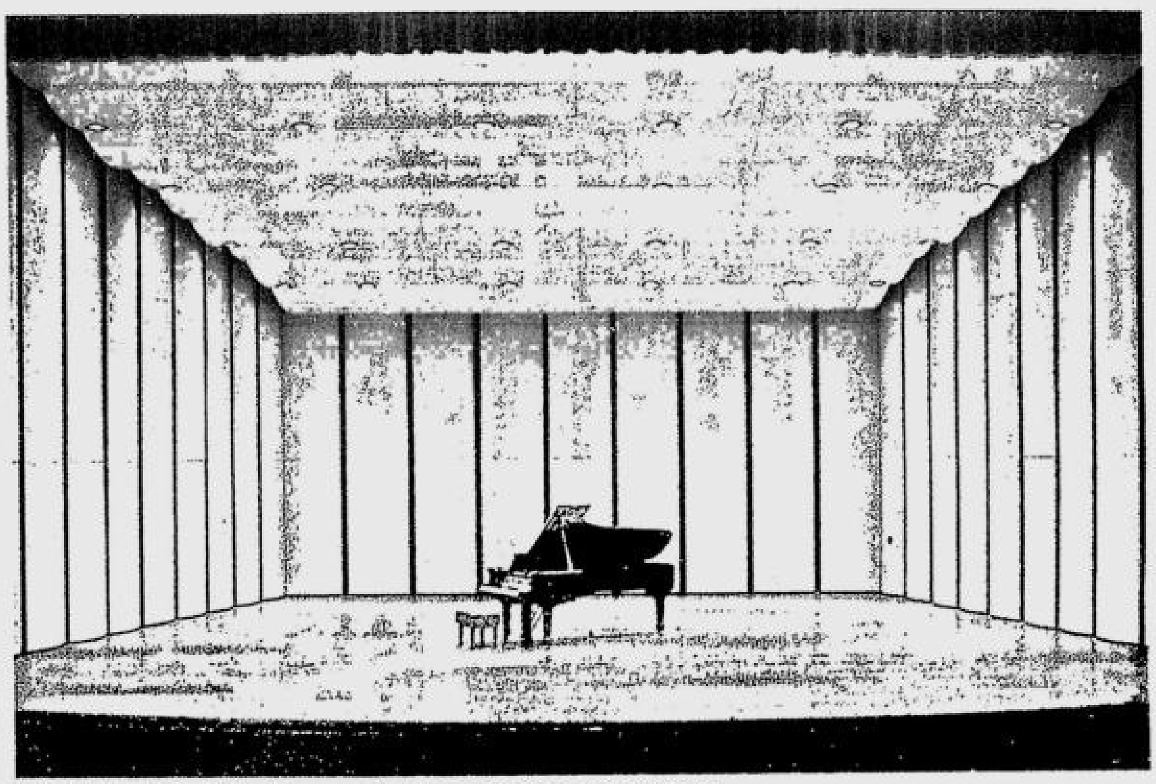
By Alex Y. Vergara

INTERNATIONALLY acclaimed pianist Reynaldo Reyes has always made it a point to perform at St. Cecilia's Hall every time he comes home to the Philippines. The US-based Reyes used to consider the hall, located at St. Scholastica's College, as the "perfect" venue for such classical concerts.

That was before the hall, originally designed by Andres Luna de San Pedro, underwent a major renovation two years ago.

PHOTO BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

PIANIST Reynaldo Reyes rehearses at St. Cecilia's Hall.


THE HALL will look like this once the Diva acoustic shell is installed.

"The acoustics of the hall were very good," says Reyes. "Its size is perfect for staging concerts. But when I did a concert after the renovation, I began to wonder what happened."

Not that people behind its renovation, led by a number of the school's distinguished alumnae, had become overzealous to the point of damaging a national treasure. On the contrary, if it weren't for the their efforts to raise funds, the architectural and historical gem would have slowly crumbled into oblivion.

The team, led by Sr. Mary Placid, dean of the school's College of Music, originally set out to fix leaking roofs, have the venue air-conditioned, and replace its wooden chairs with cushioned seats. Such creature comforts were necessary if the hall were to become the preferred multipurpose venue for the performing arts.

Alas, they learned later, cushioned seats, huge curtains and all that carpeting tend to absorb sound. Luna de San Pedro, the genius that he was, had a practical reason for choosing wooden seats over the upholstered variety. By evenly deflecting sound, those rigid seats tend to compensate for the absence of an acoustic shell.

"It's probably no big deal to the untrained ear," says Josephine Knox, a former Scholastican and one of the prime movers of St. Cecilia's renovation. "To discriminating audiences, however, the sound is bound to be far from satisfactory."

And what about the poor musician? "His reputation is at stake," adds Knox. "It would be unfair to him if the hall's acoustics are far from satisfactory."

Begging bowl

Rather than sweep the problem under the rug, the St. Scholastica's Music Alumni Association, under the joint chairmanship of Knox, Menchu Padilla and Mindy Perez-Rubio, has again dusted off its begging bowl to raise funds for an acoustic shell.

"It's a matter of pride for the school as well," says Perez-Rubio. "After all, St. Scholastica's has one of the best, if not the best, music schools in the country."

The team aims to raise at least P2 million to add to a similar amount already raised by the College of Music. Sister Placid and her associates are eyeing the Diva Acoustice' Shell System from Minnesota-based Wenger Corporation.

The walnut-finished hardwood shell is both functional and elegant. A company literature promises as much: "By enclosing performers with sound-reflective surfaces, Diva creates an acoustically superior environment for performance. From any spot on the stage, musicians hear a broader range and more complete mix of reflected sounds.

"Conductors receive an accurate acoustic representation of the entire ensemble. Communication between performers is instant and complete. For audience members, Diva delivers the full energy of the performance into the audience house, without being lost to the flyloft, curtains or stage wings."

"The shell is also rigid yet lightweight, making it easy to install," says architect Joel Lopez. "The hollow shell with a system of resin-impregnated honeycomb acts not only as a reflector but also contains the sound from rising above the proscenium or fly area."

Formidable

If that happens, St. Cecilia's Hall will become the second performance venue in the country, after the Cultural Center of the Philippines, to have such a foldable acoustic shell installed. Organizers believe other venues will follow their lead once people learn of the beauty and clarity of sound such a device facilitates.

As part of its opening salvo, the team will stage a duo piano performance featuring Reyes and Nena del Rosario on Aug. 25, 7 p.m., at St. Cecilia's Hall (tel. 526-8080 or 844-2017). Their repertoire will consist of Leonard Bernstein's "West Side Story" and Astor Piazzola's "Libertango," "Adio Nonino" and "Le Gran Tango."

Reyes and Del Rosario will be performing pro bono, with proceeds of the concert directly funding the acoustic shell.

"You don't often see and hear them play together," adds Perez-Rubio. "This concert is a coup of sorts."

St. Cecilia's case is far from unique. Reyes and his colleagues at the Towson University in Maryland had faced the same problem years ago. They were able to solve it by having an acoustic shell installed.

Reyes, who's currently conducting graduate classes in music at St. Scholastica's, considers the school his second home. He holds classes

AN ACOUSTIC/ p.D3

Union Bank launches unique card

UNION Bank launched a unique product that combines the convenience of a credit card and the ease of utility card in one.

Lumina Visa card is an international Visa Card formed out of a partnership with Meralco and Union Bank. Its aim is to primarily give residential customers more options and convenience in paying utility bills such as electricity, water, cable, telephone and cellphone.

The card is positioned as a utility card that helps reduce the stress of having to keep track of household utility bills. Hence, it is dubbed "the anti-stress utility card."

Aside from Meralco, all billings associated with the following utility partners can be paid through a Lumina Visa's Auto-Charge arrangement. Union Bank partners include Manila Water Company, Maynilad Water Services. PLDT, Bayantel, Digitel, Globelines, Globe Handyphone, Smart Communications, Sky Cable, Destiny Cable, Home Cable, Sky Internet, Pacific Internet, Globe Net Express, Infocom and ACE Insurance of North America (formerly CIGNA).

BROTHERS Mike Lopez and Mark Lopez of Meralco

MANOLO Lopez of Meralco with wife Maritess

Chut Santiago of Union Bank, June Seah of Visa International and Union Bank president Victor Valdepeñas

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Generations of Filipinos past have stereotyped her look. She is described as a wide-bespectacled spinster wearing an old-fashioned dress with a long skirt. Her hair is tied in a bun and a smirk is forever etched in her face. She holds a stick in her hand powdered with chalk dust and her voice would always resemble a snarl. That is the painting of a teacher in their minds. Overworked. Underpaid. Unappreciated.

But she takes it in graceful stride. Her chin is always held high as she enters the classroom and a smile bursts like a ray of sunlight when her students greet her, "Good morning, teacher." For she knows the tremendous calling in her hands. In her palm are the characters, the hearts and the minds of the country's tomorrow. She is a future maker.

This country has always looked up to doctors, architects, bankers, businessmen, engineers, lawyers and many others. But before these people came to be, they all passed through the delicate and gentle care of "Ma'am, Miss, Teacher, Sir, Professor." Without them, this great nation is sewn with a fragile thread of ignorance that leads to untold disaster. To the teachers' work, DIWA Learning Systems Inc gives their thanks.

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The print ads compared the teacher to an architect who builds our characters, a heart specialist who cares for our emotions and a brain surgeon who molds our minds with precision. Of course, they can also be like bankers who guard the country's treasure, which is the youth, or like businessmen who invest their lives for their students' profit. But whatever occupation you might compare them to, the truth is, the teacher's job is a most noble pursuit.

Generations past have always stereotyped the teachers. But even so, please keep in your mind that the bun in her hair is a royal crown, the stick in her hand is a golden scepter and the trail of eager students following her is a long flowing cape. She is nobility personified and when her majesty enters the classroom, remember to always take a bow. Our teachers deserve the honor.

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An acoustic shell for St. Cecilia's

From page D2

there every year from June to August, and will leave for the US a day after the concert.

"I've had the privilege of playing all over the Philippines," he says. "St. Cecilia's is still one of the best venues in the country."

More so once the acoustic shell is put in place.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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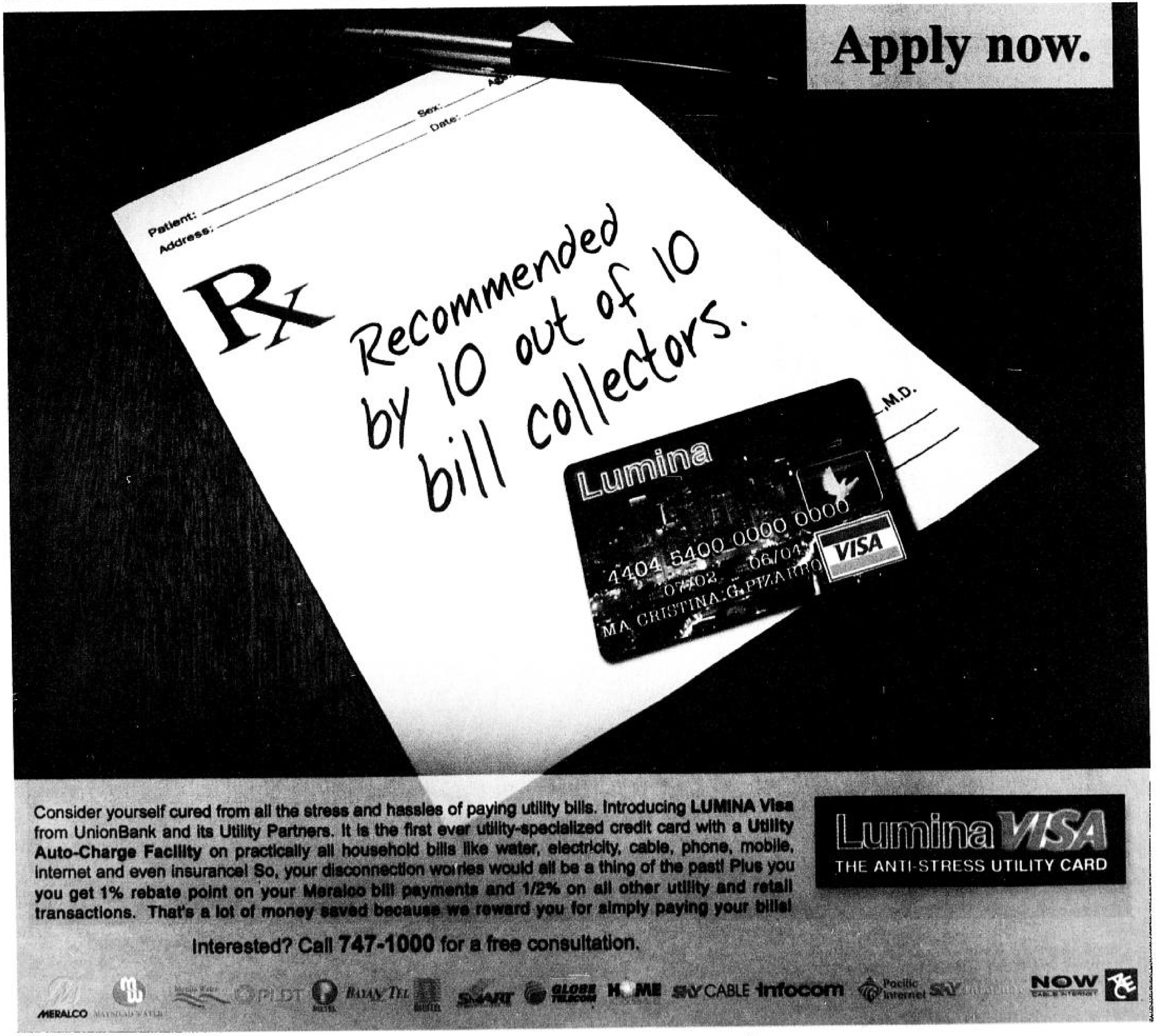

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Kammerchor Stuttgart Choir awes Manila anew

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

THE KAMMERCHOR Stuttgart Choral awed Manila's music lovers once more with its sterling performance at the Phil-Am Life Theater recently. It had its Manila debut performance in 1996 at the CCP.

Once more, the choral had a formidable program: an a cappella choral suite. The pleasure of listening to an unaccompanied program of songs intelligently chosen from the 19th and early 20th centuries cannot be over-emphasized. Singing unaccompanied is one litmus test of a choir's musical as well as technical grounding.

From the first to the last number, including the encores, the choir sang excellently, consistently staying on pitch, keepings its voices fully blended and not showing any hint of tiredness at all.

The same style of vocal production was observed. It was kept on a passage that was not allowed to swell too much so as to give a radiant resonance. Restraint was evident—not too much to muffle the tone, but just enough to let the sound unravel an unaffected appeal.

The tone etched a straight rather than a curved, dome-shaped sound, which was best appreciated in the lower as well as middle ranges. In the higher register, however, its limitation was seen, as the tone just fairly gathered to give a massive, ringing projection.

The consistent tonal grounding, the arresting balancing of voices, the impeccable ensemble singing, evenness of tone and well-punctuated execution of cadences, were factors that made up for a most pleasurable listening.

Composed of some 35 singers, 20 of whom were females, and all of whom had schooling in music or vocals, the choir divided itself in its rendition of the Swiss composer Frank Martin's "Mass." Here, the choir etched simple canonic or imitative lines that painted the text of the Latin Mass. Martin's style followed the traditional setting of the Mass to simply portray the text without elaborate vocal treatment.

Captivating

In the Edward Elgar numbers culled from the Four Choral Songs, Op. 53 (Nos. 1 and 2), the choir held the audience's interest, particularly in the second piece, "Deep in My Soul." Toward the end, the choir had divided itself into two main vocal forces, with the sopranos, altos and tenors constituting one group, and the bases and baritones as another.

The latter intoned death's moving melodic line in unison, as it listened to the old folk pleading not to pass through the village "where the young folk lift their voices" and the "children run and pluck the blossoms gay." The other three voices sang the motif of the villagers, and the juxtaposition of the two voices was simply arresting.

The choir sounded symphonic, majestically robust in Rachmaninoff's Vespers that contained six parts. Intoned in the original Russian, the choir was still very much in top form. Here, one admired the incisive attacks, precision and again the unwavering, excellent blending of voices. Tonal integrity was kept untarnished, and no trace of tiredness was noted at all. The choir sang intensely, with utmost reverence.

Encore

The choir then capped its singing with Mahler's "Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekomen" done so tenderly. Thunderously applauded, the choir encored several numbers, which included another Mahler composition, "Die zwei blauen Auger," which the choir handsomely crafted.

The Ateneo Chamber Singers, ably conducted by Jonathan Velasco, preceded the Kammerchor Stuttgart Choral's performance. The choir sang with equal verve, rendering three contemporary religious songs with solid dispatch: Robin Estrada's "Awit sa Panginoon," Fidel Calalang Jr.'s "Pater Noster," and Cipriano Cayabyab's "Aba Po, Santa Mariang Reyna."

Velasco was a revelation. He was thoroughly in command. The choir, which was composed of non-Music, much more non-Voice majors, etched a luminous, homogenous sound that was even and brilliant.

Velasco's vocal production differed from the former choir in the higher register. Rather than project the high note straightly in the passage, Velasco let the voice curved to define a dome that was placed in the mask. The result was simply fantastic, as big passages sounded more vibrant and full.

The works were remarkable that the composers had proven religious songs can be scored in contemporary idiom without sounding irreverent. The works exemplify the angst that goes into the praying of the Filipino, which has to be poured out to let the spirit in. Like Sisa of Rizal's "Noli," the Filipino argues his plea for mercy, but all done in a suave manner. The heart is emptied of all bitterness, and the mind is prepared to humbly accept the will of the Almighty.

Velasco is no stranger to this sentiment. He let loose those angst prayerfully, done in exquisitely legate manner. Praying had never been so ardently affecting than the way Velasco did it in singing songs scored in contemporary vein.

Truly the rendition was so divine, this writer could not help but cry out "Bravo!" as the last note faded out in the final number.

CONDUCTOR
Frieder Bernius

The Birth of the New Aura

For over 30 years now, Kawasaki Motors (Phils.) Corporation has been the exclusive assembler and distributor of Kawasaki motorcycles, engines and spare parts. Recently, they held a National Dealers' Convention to celebrate their business partnership and to witness the unveiling of the newest stylish innovation in the motorcycle, The Aura Nexus.

Aura Nexus is a practical and stylish means of transportation specially designed to meet the needs of a busy and active lifestyle. With Aura Nexus, going to places like the schools, gyms, grocery stores, malls, offices, factories and country clubs on motorcycle will never be as exciting as before. This lightweight, highly maneuverable and easy to operate moped is a great motorcycle for negotiating crowded streets.

The modern and fashionable styling of Aura Nexus together with its eye-catching design made this new machine one of the best looking motorcycles in its class. It has specially finished curved edges and comes with an attractive unified multi-reflector headlamp and signal lights. These features similarly go with its new tail light that comes with powerful krypton bulbs and clear lens, adding up to its sharp and sporty look. And to complement its over-all stylish image and functionality, this new model introduces a new carbon-look instrument panel.

With the looks, comes its performance. Without sacrificing quality, Kawasaki enginbers took special pain in reducing the weight of the engine and that of the chassis. In fact, Aura Nexus has one of the lightest dry weight in its class. This explains its pleasant, lightweight handling features handling qualities and ease of maneuverability.

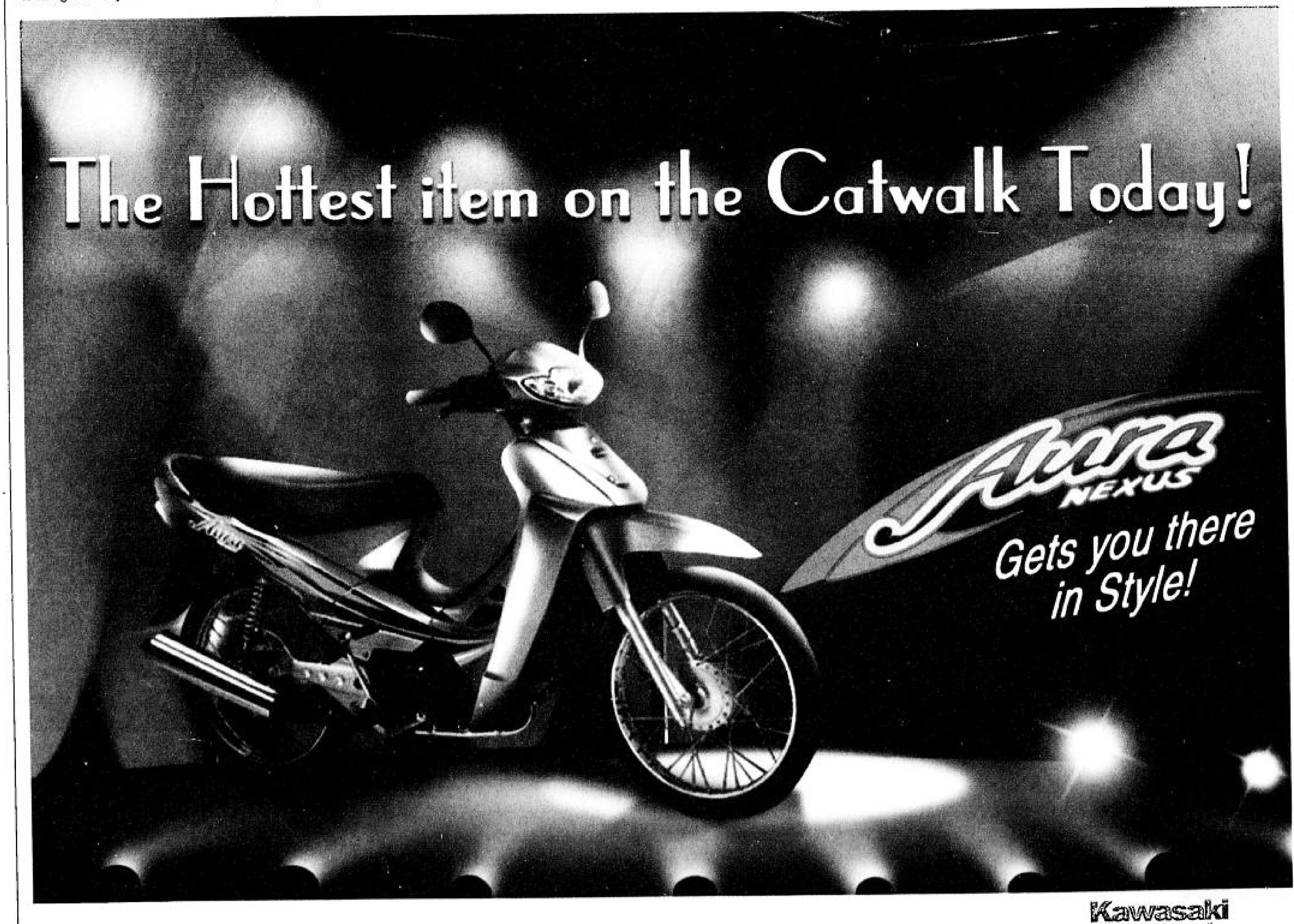
And like a fresh wind blowing into the moped market, Aura Nexus with its stylish and slim compact body design exhibited new and responsive 4-stroke, 112cc engine that delivers high performance and variable torque output for impressive acceleration and ease of operation. Its 4-speed rotary transmission is equipped with a safety device that prohibits gear shifting into neutral position while in motion. And like all Kawasaki engine, it is extremely durable and reliable. And to complement this innovation, the engine is made to be high on fuel economy. attachment of reliable carburetion system which delivers precise fuel metering, and ensures environmental compliance even with more stringent emissions regulation without degrading the engine's power output.

Engine starting would be a breeze, for this model is equipped with a torque-back limiter for fail-safe electric starting and decreased number of kick starter teeth to reduce starting loads. Thus, making it easy for almost anyone to start the bike.

For lightweight and high strength, the backbone frame is made of high-tensile steel, which also contributes to its lightweight handling qualities and high stability. The swing-arm is a box-section high tensile steel tubing which reduces unsprung weight for sportier handling. It has a large capacity fuel tank for longer travel and fitted with a vacuum operated petcock which eliminates chores of turning the fuel on and off.

Excellent steering quality comes courtesy of a strong and sturdy front fork fitted with nickel plated stanchious to prevent corrosion. Together with its long stroke, it delivers excellent road holding, bump absorption qualities and smooth ride. It also features low step-through layout, making it easy for ladies to ride and operate.

Aura Nexus is Kawasaki Motors' answer to the modern needs and stylish wants of motorists today. It is the perfect vehicle to course through the traffic with elegance and style. Witness and experience the birth of the new Aura Nexus. It comes in two models, AN112D which hold a powerful front disc brakes while AN112Bcomes in reliable front drum brake. Both models utilized drum brake at the rear and comes in three attractive colors: Metallic Phantom Silver, Candy Bright Blue and Bright Yellow.



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2. Inside the empty carton, write your name, address, telephone number, dealer store where you made the purchase and affix your signature.
3. Drop your entries in designated dropboxes to be found in any Canon dealer store nationwide or at the Canon Marketing Head Office located at Marvin Building, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City.
4. Promotion period: August 1 – November 4, 2002. Last day of submission of entries is on October 28, 2002 until the store's closing hours.
5. Grand draw will be on November 15, 2002 at the Canon Marketing Head Office located at Marvin Building, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City in the presence of a DTI representative.
6. All promotion winners will be notified through registered mail.
7. A participant can only win once and if the name is drawn more than once, the winner will receive the prize with the higher value.
8. Winners must present a valid ID and the registered notice to claim their prize at the Canon Marketing Head Office located at Marvin Building, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City.
9. 20% tax for prizes over ₱10,000 will be shouldered by the winner.
10. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of the registered notice will be forfeited in favor of Canon Marketing Philippines with prior approval from DTI.
11. Employees of Canon, DENTSU Phils., Canon resellers and distributors and their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

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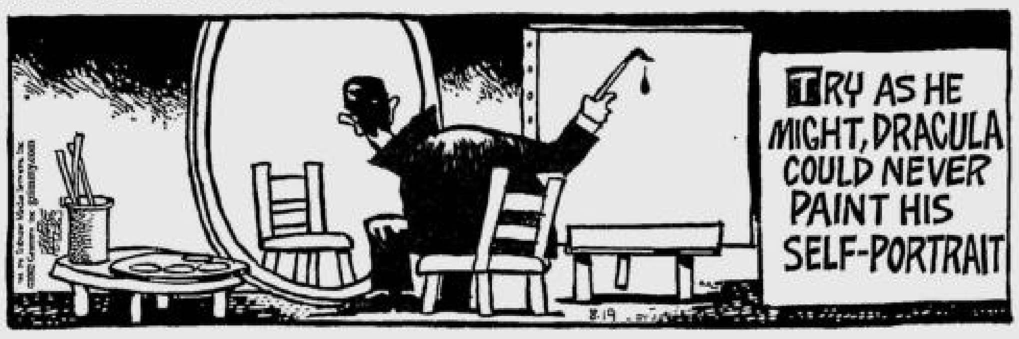
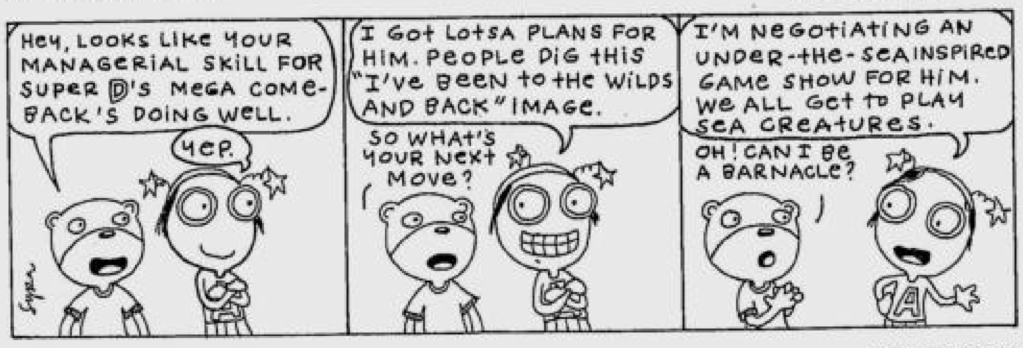
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


TRY AS HE MIGHT, DRACULA COULD NEVER PAINT HIS SELF-PORTRAIT
8-19

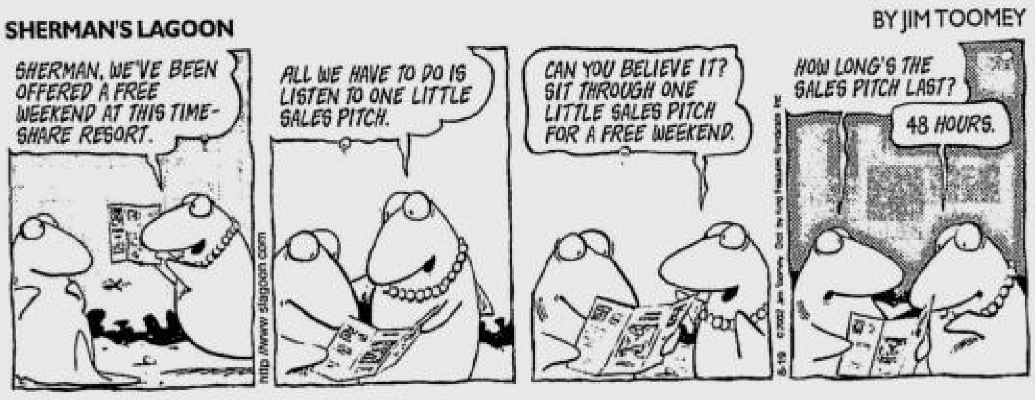
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


HEY, LOOKS LIKE YOUR MANAGERIAL SKILL FOR SUPER D'S MEGA COMEBACK'S DOING WELL.
YEP.
I GOT LOTSA PLANS FOR HIM. PEOPLE DIG THIS "I'VE BEEN TO THE WILDS AND BACK" IMAGE.
SO WHAT'S YOUR NEXT MOVE?
I'M NEGOTIATING AN UNDER-THE-SEA INSPIRED GAME SHOW FOR HIM. WE ALL GET TO PLAY SEA CREATURES.
OH! CAN I BE A BARNACLE?

SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SHERMAN, WE'VE BEEN OFFERED A FREE WEEKEND AT THIS TIME-SHARE RESORT.
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS LISTEN TO ONE LITTLE SALES PITCH.
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? SIT THROUGH ONE LITTLE SALES PITCH FOR A FREE WEEKEND.
HOW LONG'S THE SALES PITCH LAST?
48 HOURS.
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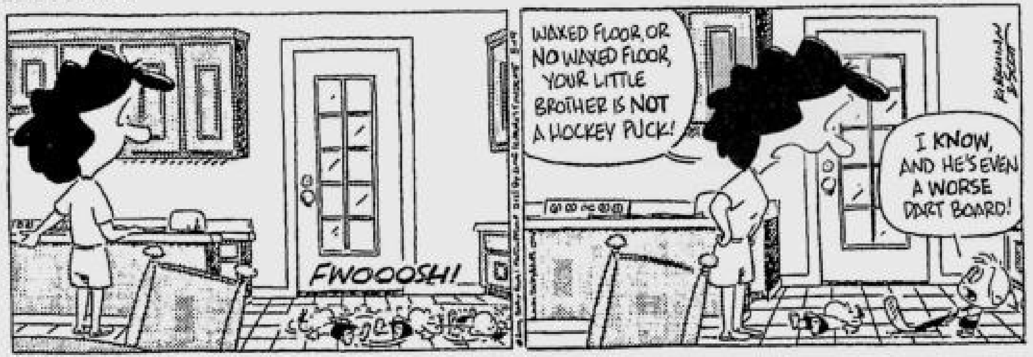
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


FWOOOSH!
WAXED FLOOR OR NO WAXED FLOOR, YOUR LITTLE BROTHER IS NOT A HOCKEY PUCK!
I KNOW, AND HE'S EVEN A WORSE DART BOARD!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bill Clinton, Jill St. John, Tipper Gore, Matthew Perry

Happy Birthday: You've been repressing personal issues for too long. It's time to let go of the past if you really want to take advantage of the opportunities that are present. Be positive and open to all the possibilities. You need to revert to that carefree, fearless attitude of your youth. Your numbers are 10, 13, 19, 28, 32, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't be bothered by the changes going on around you. Although it may be a little unsettling, remaining calm will be the answer. Problems with loved ones may result in a change in your personal life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): This is a great day for a short jaunt to visit a friend or to experience something new. Get away with the people you have the most fun with. Good food and conversation will be your reward.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't take chances when it comes to your financial concerns. Someone may try to talk you out of doing something that means a lot to you. Use your intuition and do what you feel is right.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can expect the full moon to play emotional havoc with you. Don't let someone who is being melodramatic cause grief for you today. Keep your feet planted firmly on the ground.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Plenty of business opportunities are apparent, so don't hesitate to do some wheeling and dealing. Your efforts will be appreciated by others. You will attract plenty of attention with your outgoing , jovial attitude.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Pursue your own interests and let your creative imagination flow. You can turn your ideas into extra cash if you are enterprising in the way you promote your talents.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Nothing is likely to go according to plan, but don't let this upset you. Someone you care about may not agree with what you want to do today, but you must do what you feel is best.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Travel should be on your mind. Be honest with yourself about your future and your personal life. Much can be revealed today if you open your eyes to the truth.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your thoughts will be on business, finances and getting ahead today. Whatever you do, make sure you pursue the best direction, or you may find it difficult to finish what you start.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may find it difficult to control your emotions today. Be honest with yourself and your family if you want to avoid hassle. You'll have a tendency to make promises you can't keep.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Avoid any altercations with government agencies or institutions. This is not the time to play games or to push your luck. Positive thoughts will bring positive actions.

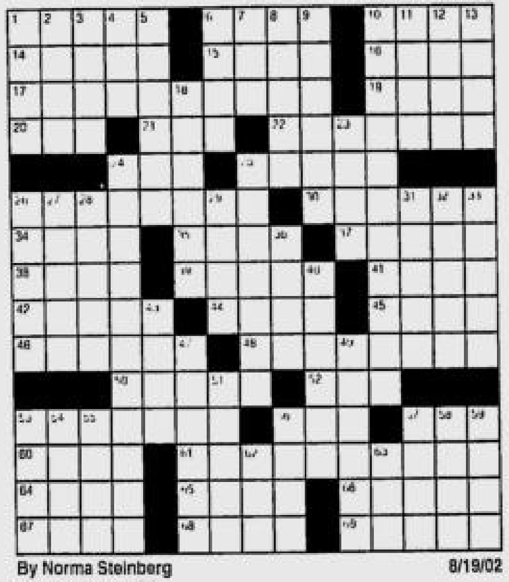
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): If you really want to help a cause you believe in, roll up your sleeves and show the world how much you care. Just give your time, effort and dedication. You'll meet someone special while on your crusade.

Birthday Baby: You'll be bright, articulate and eager to please. You will be ambitious, dedicated and forever trying to get ahead.Watch out for speed bumps.

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Aussie's pals
6 Home of Paris
10 Letters of 1250
14 Higher than
15 Pit
16 __ vera
17 Parking officers
19 Sun Microsystems language
20 Beer choice
21 West Coast seagull
22 Authorize
24 __ crying out loud!
25 Garson of "Mrs. Miniver"
26 Mightier
30 Journalist Bly
34 John Glenn's state
35 Anon's partner
37 Bartletts
38 In case
39 Supped
41 Aid in crime
42 "Golden Boy" dramatist
44 Nathan of "The Birdcage"
45 No longer here
46 Pageant bands
48 Sets of teeth
50 Make joyful
52 Fury
53 Heart of Dixie
56 PGA member
57 Diamond stat
60 Garr of "Tootsie"
61 Local playground, perhaps
64 The __ Office
65 Depression migrant
66 Union branch
67 "The __ on the Floss"
68 Putin's rejection
69 "Blue __ Shoes"



By Norma Steinberg
San Francisco, CA

8/19/02

DOWN
1 Call from the crib
2 Second of Adam's sons
3 Lug about
4 Adam's mate
5 Sunday speech
6 Return to liquid
7 King of France
8 Made longer ago
9 Sycophants
10 Big time for batters
11 Talon
12 Sheltered harbor
13 Goneril's father
18 Combined
23 Chick's comment
24 Treat a group
25 Lobbed explosive
26 Singular performances
27 Actress Bara
28 Gets up
29 Depravity
31 Toil
32 Dunne or Cara
33 Bob of the PGA
36 Philosopher Descartes
40 "Casino" star
43 Actress Ward
47 Delilah's fella
49 Fishes from a moving boat
51 Tasteless
53 Minute particle
54 Son of Leah and Jacob
55 Asian sea
56 Baudelaire or Rimbaud
57 Track event
58 Upholstery nail
59 Out of work
62 Hurry up!
63 "__ Are My Sunshine"

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

D	E	C	R	E	P	I	T	■	O	P	E	N	E	R
A	I	R	B	O	R	N	E	■	R	E	S	A	L	E
P	L	A	I	N	E	S	T	■	T	E	E	M	E	D
P	E	T	■	■	S	I	S	T	E	R	■	E	V	A
L	E	E	C	H	E	D	■	A	G	A	■	S	A	L
E	N	R	O	U	T	E	■	M	A	G	N	A	T	E
■	■	■	L	E	S	S	■	S	L	E	E	K	E	R
R	I	A	L	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	W	E	S	T
E	N	M	A	S	S	E	■	A	C	H	E	■	■	■
S	H	O	R	T	E	N	■	T	H	U	S	F	A	R
T	E	P	■	A	D	O	■	T	O	R	T	O	N	I
A	R	E	■	T	A	S	S	E	L	■	■	I	T	S
G	E	T	O	U	T	■	A	M	E	N	A	B	L	E
E	N	T	I	R	E	■	S	P	R	A	W	L	E	R
S	T	O	L	E	S	■	S	T	A	P	L	E	R	S

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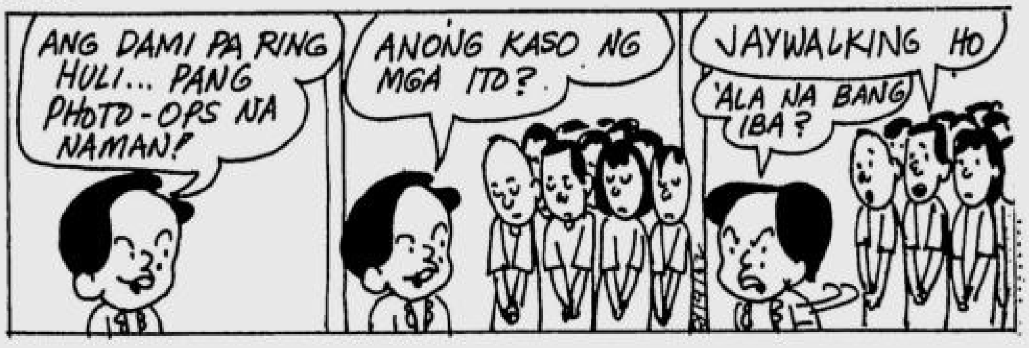
8/19/02

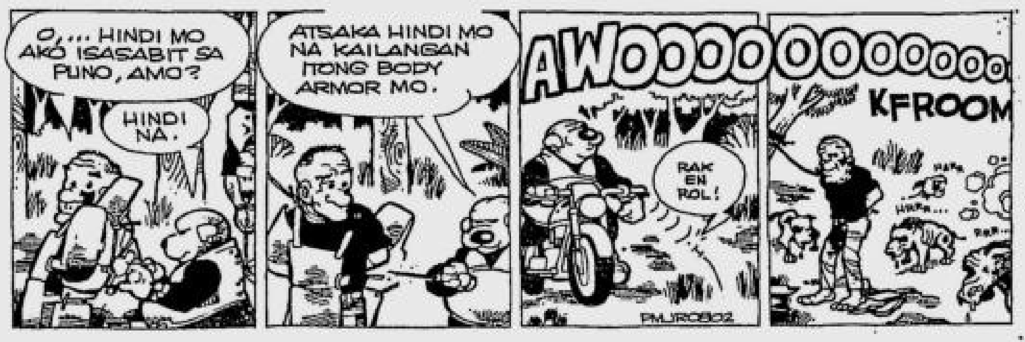
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG DAMI PA RING HULI... PANG PHOTO-OPS NA NAMAN!
ANONG KASO NG MGA ITO?
JAYWALKING HO
'ALA NA BANG IBA?

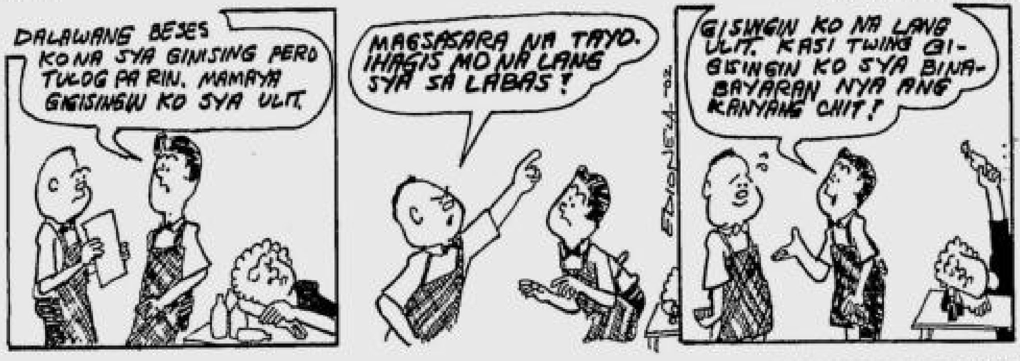
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


O,... HINDI MO AKO ISASABIT SA PUNO, AMO?
HINDI NA.
ATSAKA HINDI MO NA KAILANGAN ITONG BODY ARMOR MO.
AWOOOOOOOOOOooo
RAK EN ROL!
KFROOM
PMJR0802

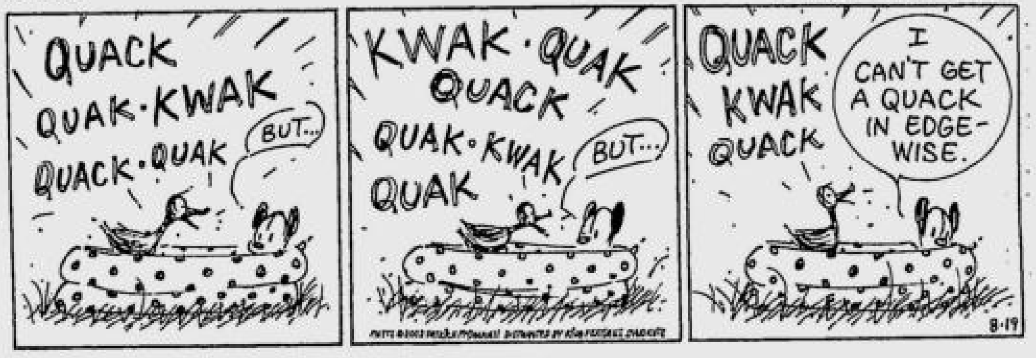
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


DALAWANG BESES KONA SYA GINISING PERO TULOG PA RIN. MAMAYA GIGISINGIN KO SYA ULIT.
MAGSASARA NA TAYO. IHAGIS MO NA LANG SYA SA LABAS!
GISINGIN KO NA LANG ULIT. KASI TWING GIGISINGIN KO SYA BINABAYARAN NYA ANG KANYANG CHIT!
DIONELA '02

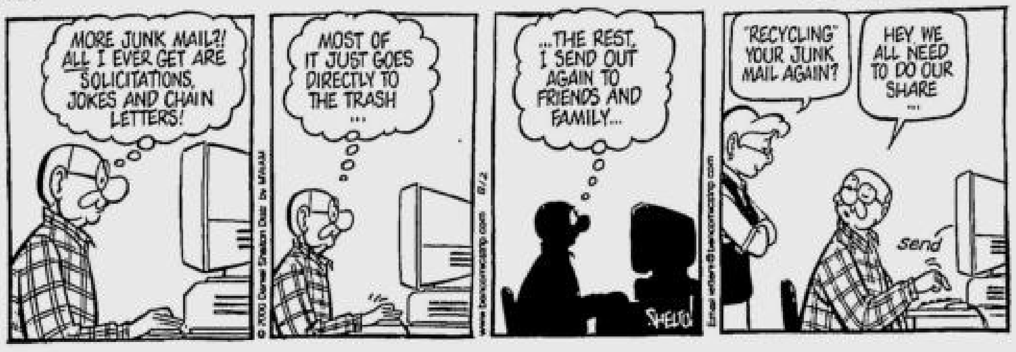
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


QUACK QUAK·KWAK QUACK·QUAK
BUT...
KWAK·QUAK QUACK QUAK·KWAK QUAK
BUT...
QUACK KWAK QUACK
I CAN'T GET A QUACK IN EDGE-WISE.
8-19

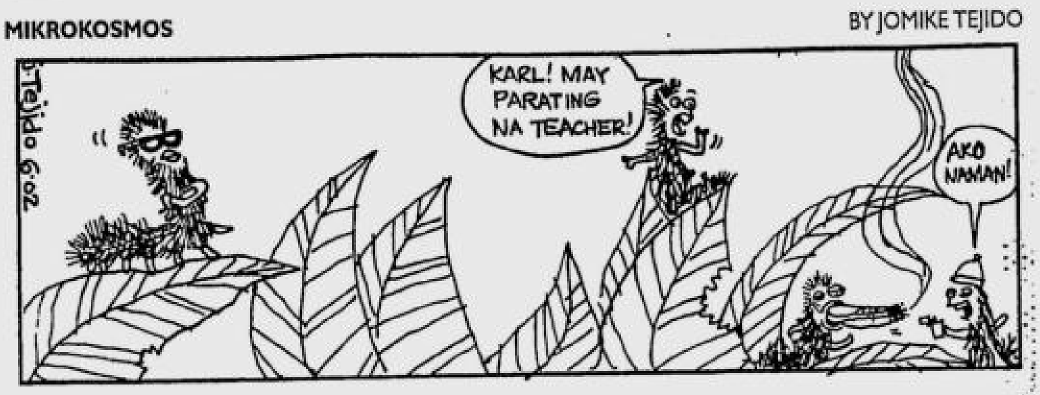
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


MORE JUNK MAIL?! ALL I EVER GET ARE SOLICITATIONS, JOKES AND CHAIN LETTERS!
MOST OF IT JUST GOES DIRECTLY TO THE TRASH ...
...THE REST, I SEND OUT AGAIN TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY...
"RECYCLING" YOUR JUNK MAIL AGAIN?
HEY WE ALL NEED TO DO OUR SHARE ...
Send

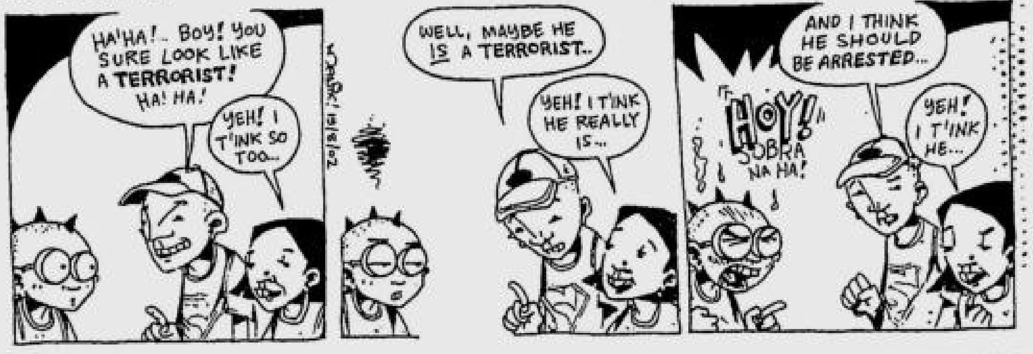
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


Tejido 6.02
KARL! MAY PARATING NA TEACHER!
AKO NAMAN!

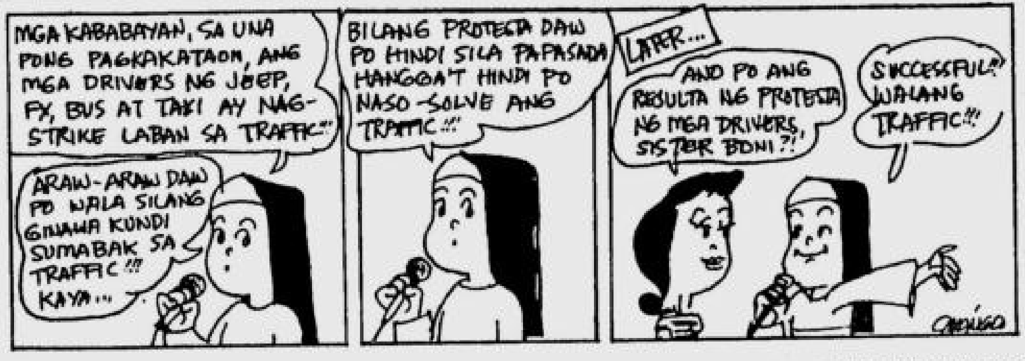
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HA'HA!.. BOY! YOU SURE LOOK LIKE A TERRORIST! HA! HA!
YEH! I T'INK SO TOO...
WELL, MAYBE HE IS A TERRORIST..
YEH! I T'INK HE REALLY IS...
AND I THINK HE SHOULD BE ARRESTED...
HOY! SOBRA NA HA!
YEH! I T'INK HE...

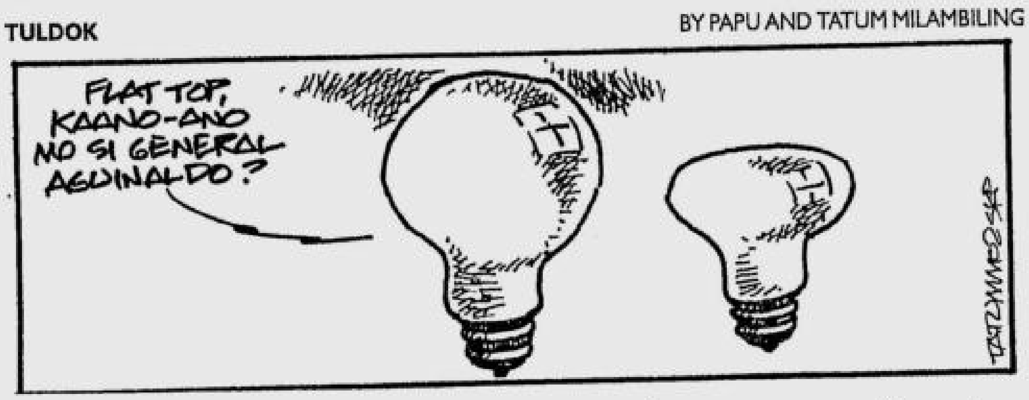
LOVEKNOTS

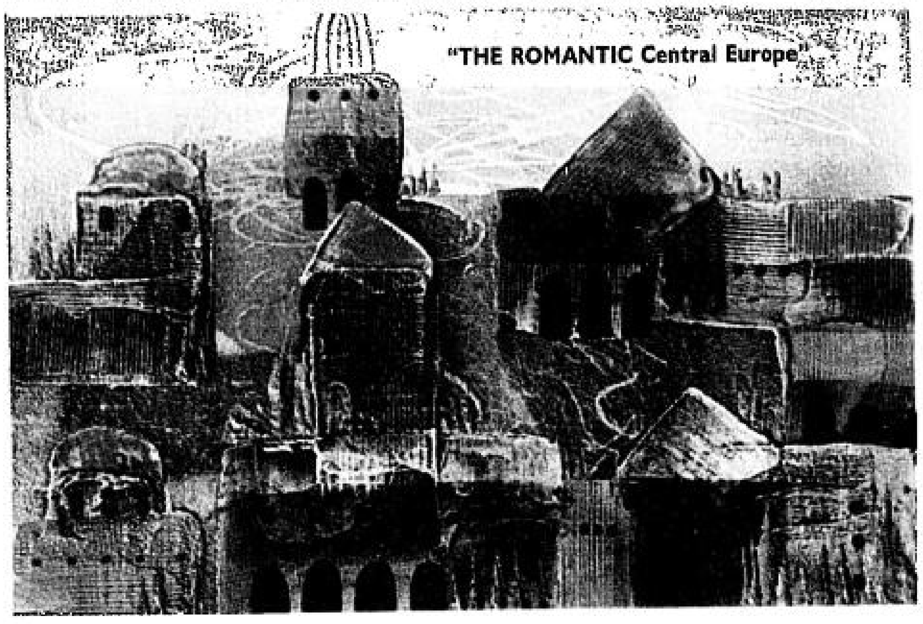
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MGA KABABAYAN, SA UNA PONG PAGKAKATAON, ANG MGA DRIVERS NG JEEP, FX, BUS AT TAXI AY NAG-STRIKE LABAN SA TRAFFIC!!
ARAW-ARAW DAW PO WALA SILANG GINAWA KUNDI SUMABAK SA TRAFFIC!!! KAYA...
BILANG PROTESTA DAW PO HINDI SILA PAPASADA HANGGA'T HINDI PO NASO-SOLVE ANG TRAFFIC!!!
LATER...
ANO PO ANG RESULTA NG PROTESTA NG MGA DRIVERS, SISTER BONI?!
SUCCESSFUL!! WALANG TRAFFIC!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


FLAT TOP, KAANO-ANO MO SI GENERAL AGUINALDO?



"THE ROMANTIC Central Europe"

The Marco Polo of visual arts

By Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

THE VISUAL artist Manuel D. Baldemor—painter, sculptor and printmaker, and also a bilingual writer—must surely be moving in the direction of some kind of world record.

His latest solo show ("Timeless Places," Aug. 21-Sept. 2 at Galerie Y, Glorietta 4) is his 114th exhibit. And he derives inspiration from the sites, sights, shrines and sounds of the countries that he has visited—50 as of last count.

Australia is the only continent he has not visited, for one reason or another. But he has been to Africa, if only to one country there—Egypt.

Europe is a continent that fascinates him, because of its history (often violent) and culture (often uplifting). And he keeps going back there.

Baldemor, 55, a fine arts graduate of the University of Santo Tomas, is drawn to shrines religious (Fatima in Portugal, St. Francis of Assisi in Italy and St. Mark's in Venice), as well as secular (Count Dracula's in Transylvania, Romania).

"Dracula was really a Crusader and he fought Muslims during the Crusades," Baldemor says. "He was not a vampire, he did not suck blood." Blame the negative image on Bram Stoker's novel, "Dracula," which has inspired so many film versions.

The spell of the book was on Baldemor, however, when he visited the count's tomb. And when darkness began to fall upon the place, he beat a hasty retreat.

Baldemor's canvases are always crowded, and have been likened to a typical Pinoy home where the walls are covered with photos, prints, diplomas, plaques and what have you.

His paintings and watercolors brim with images of houses, towers, spires, cupolas, mosques, churches, landmarks and human figures. Warm colors interact with darker tones.

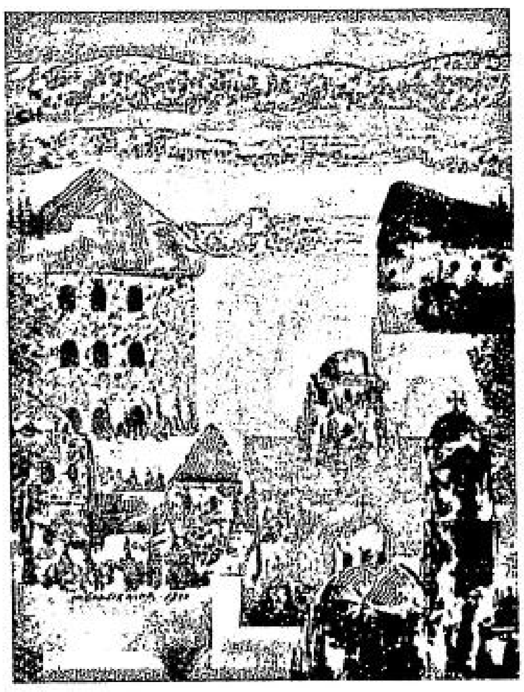
His style has evolved through three decades, but often remains easily recognizable. The works are representational, with a dash of abstract designs.

On the other hand, Baldemor's sculptures are even more affecting than his paintings, prints and watercolors, marked by sensitive lines and a feeling of tenderness. This is especially evident in his mother-and-child sculptures.

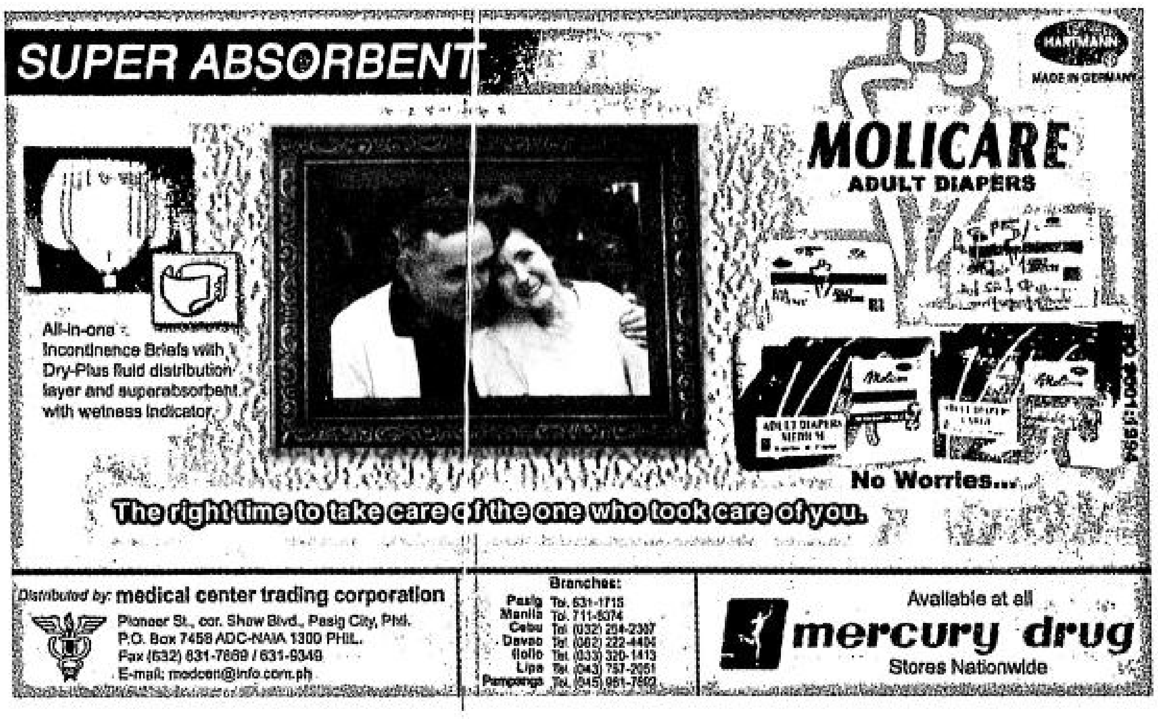
The artist's first one-man show was in 1972. Three years later came a trip to London and Paris, which made a lasting impression upon him.

Since then, off and on, Baldemor has been traveling, sketching, painting, and taking photos of interesting places and people. He has become a Philippine ambassador of goodwill in art, exhibiting abroad (non-revenue) and then mounting solo shows here (revenue).

"Traveling gives me the opportunity to be in a wonderful place at a special time," the artist observes. "Painting gives me the opportunity to relive that experience."



"MEDIEVAL Village"



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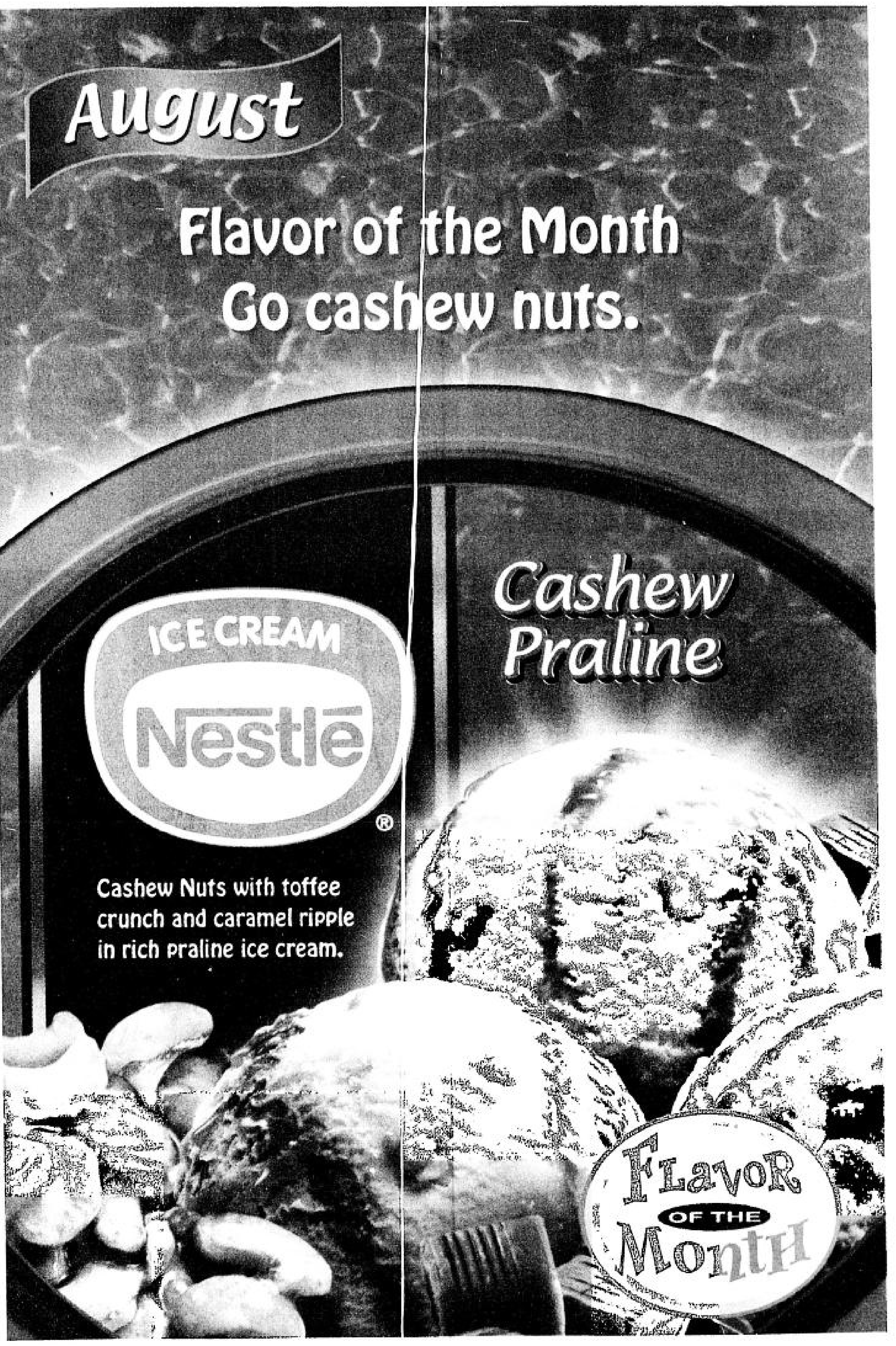

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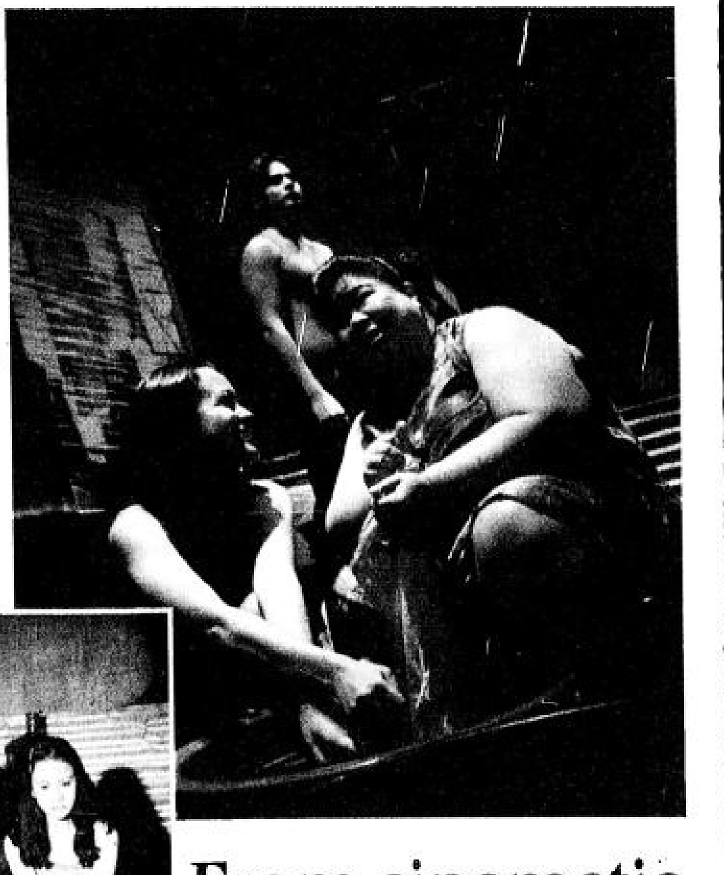
Goldilocks



TOYANG (Mae Paner) talks to Insiang (Sheenly Gener) about Bong, Insiang's deceased father (background), in Tanghalang Pilipino's 16th Theater Season presentation of the stage adaptation of the award-winning film.

RICKY Davao (right) plays Dado, the deceitful hoodlum who lusts for virginal Insiang.

From cinematic masterpiece to rare stage experience

From page D1

Now, Tanghalang Pilipino (TP) has recreated the drama in the cramped, intimate quarters of Tanghalang Batute at the CCP. Director Chris Millado promises the audience more than just their regular theatrical viewing.

The fourth wall has been practically removed. While Batute's stage has always been too close for comfort to the audience, especially during the more intense presentations, Millado and costume designer Bobot Lota will still be bringing the harrowing drama one step closer.

To start with, the seats have been transferred from the normal periphery to the near-middle. The viewers can practically smell the reek of fake alcohol of the characters, and just might get an unwanted shower or two should the spitting and cursing become more violent. Intertwining the stage where the characters act and the audience sits is a labyrinth of cloistered scrap-iron walls and cardboard huts, a hint of the claustrophobic enclosure that real-life slum dwellers live in. This maze reaches up to the balcony, in effect trapping the viewers and the audience below in a dark cave.

Millado and Lota hope to literally make the viewers get an unforgettable sensory experience of the urban jungle. It's a theme park, minus the frills and the joyrides. Millado says the involving production design is essential to making the journey into Insiang's world as realistic as possible.

"We've begun to accept the vulgarity of our existence in the Philippines," Millado says. "But we should acknowledge that this kind of poverty is happening—and that 70 percent of Filipinos live like this. These days, the drivers can avoid the squatters' area by going through the skyway. The urban landscape is changing—and pushing these poor into the periphery."

Millado, a Peta alumnus who's no stranger to the squalor and darkness of slum colonies, was himself shocked when O'Hara took him to the actual places where Insiang and her family and friends could have lived. He knew the situation was bad, but he didn't think it was that bad.

"It was an experience. *Grabe*. These people live in-between places, between one firewall and another. Remember, these are not spaces to be lived in. They're only about two-feet wide, the size of closets. But these people have squeezed houses into them, building up to four walls, and walking in what's left of the space below as *eskinitas*. You can't see the sky—it's filtered through the wall cracks or the scores of laundry hanging around. These people have lived here all their lives; this kind of place has defined their existence. Seeing all these changes your worldview. You begin to understand why the people in Edsa 3 rushed to Malacañang."

Millado and Lota came to a decision that "we cannot stylize poverty. The set has to be ultra-real. We decided to recreate the *labahan*. There will be real water, and the audience will smell this soapy odor that's prevalent in these areas."

The exposure trip was also an eye-opener. While the poverty in these marginalized areas does breed criminal elements, not all the people that Millado encountered were the stereotypical drunks, gamblers, local bullies. While their houses might have been built from the junk heap, they didn't smell like trash.

"You wouldn't believe it—the people and their houses are clean. The *eskinitas* smell of soap because the people take a bath every day. Then you have these washed clothes hanging around. The people who live there make it clean because they have a certain sense of dignity. Some of them work as clerks in Makati, crew members in Jollibee or students. They're friendly and accommodating—dignified people making do in this very undignified surrounding."

In a sense, that description also encapsulates the dilemma of Insiang, played by Hilda Koronel in the film, and now essayed by 16-year-old Sheenly Gener, who won the role over 80 other auditioners.

"It's the usual tragic myth of someone searching for truth. How long can this innocent person who believes in the purity of love and the memory of a loving father exist in this kind of world? This girl's happiness is simple. She just wants to be happy with her mother, Pacing, and to be given affirmation by her boyfriend. But because of the assault by her stepfather, Dado, everything changes. Insiang becomes manipulative. She manipulates everyone in the end."

Pacing, played in the film by Mona Lisa as an aging 60-year-old woman, is portrayed by Malou de Guzman as an insecure 40-year-old.

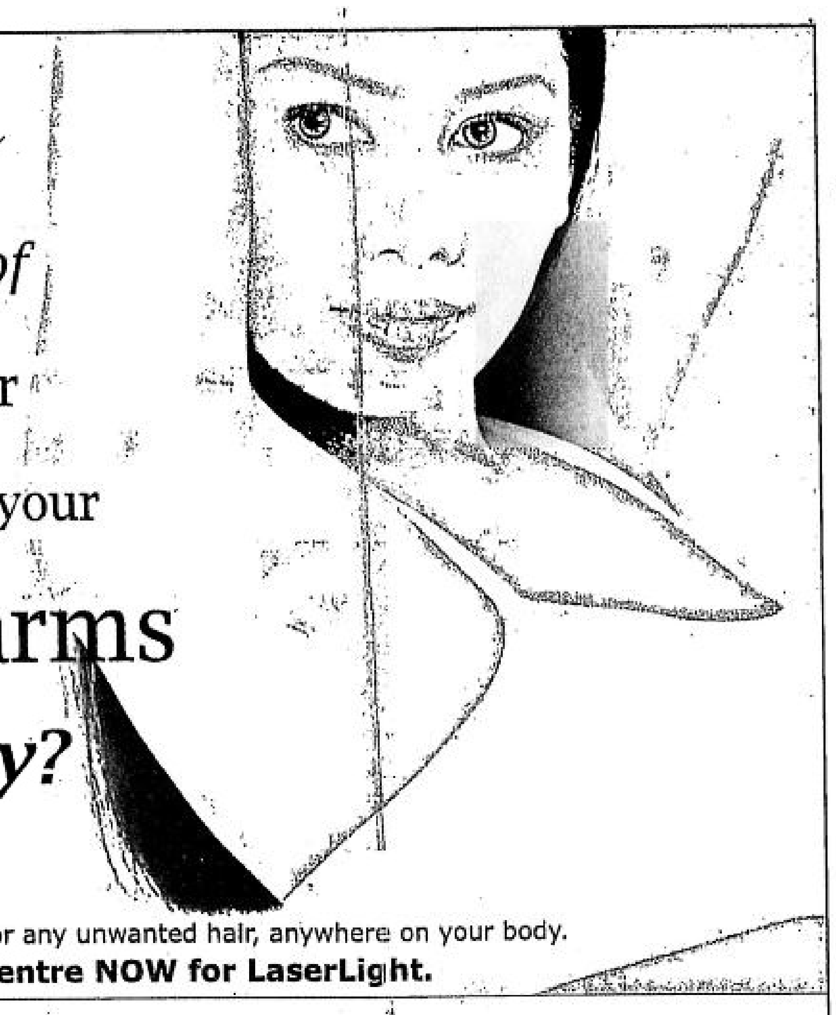
Millado says, "She wants to show love, but is not the nurturing type. She's afraid that she's growing old and approaching death. She was attractive before and now feels that her body is giving way. She wants to reach out to Insiang, but doesn't know how. Every step of the way, she feels threatened."

The unscrupulous and lecherous Dado is brought to life by Ricky Davao. "He looks harmless at first, but he's really cunning and has a way with women. He really wants Insiang, but since she's too young, he decides to get to her through her mother."

One new character not in the film is Toyang, an eccentric laundrywoman who sees and hears every brawl, every love affair, every act of passion and despair in this minor hell. Alternated by Mae Paner and Peewee O'Hara, Toyang also acts as a guardian angel who guides the audience through this torturous journey into limbo—and finally and mercifully takes them out.

Millado promises an "interactive experience. Everything is in spitting distance. By the end of the play, the audience will be physically intact—but emotionally and intellectually moved."

Tanghalang Pilipino's "Insiang" runs at Tanghalang Batute, CCP Complex, until Aug. 25. Call 832-3661 1125



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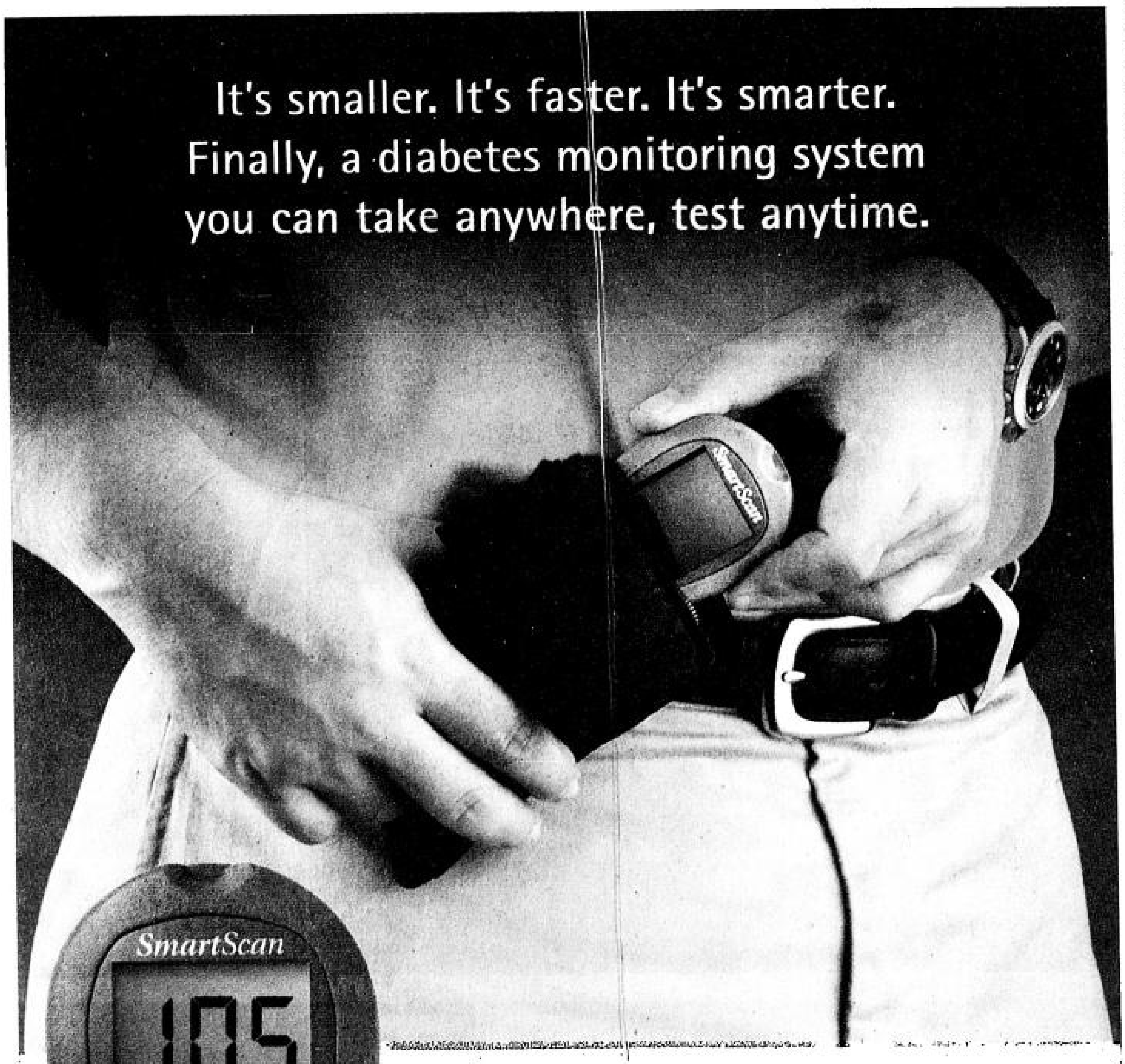

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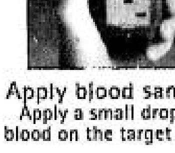

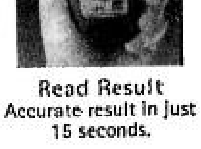

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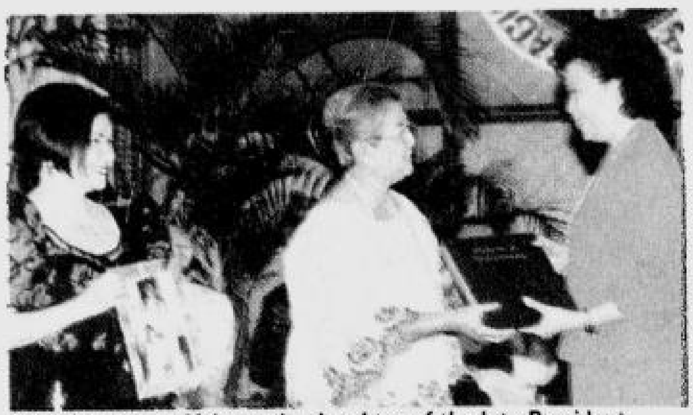

MILA Magsaysay Valenzuela, daughter of the late President Ramon Magsaysay, receives a copy of the book and family photograph from Regina Sy Coseteng and Phyllis Zaballero, chair and trustee, respectively, of the Society for the Preservation of Philippine Culture.

THE MOST awaited launch of National Artist for Literature Nick Joaquin's latest masterpiece "Palacio de Malacañang: 200 Years of a Ruling House" saw an illustrious gathering of presidential relatives at the Ceremonial Hall of Malacañang Palace.

The first and only comprehensive official history of Malacañang Palace to date, the book was proudly unveiled by President Macapagal-Arroyo with former President Fidel V. Ramos and former President Corazon C. Aquino, who pioneered the establishment of the Museo ng Malacañang Foundation Inc. (MMF), now the Society for the Preservation of Philippine Culture (SPPC).

After years of painstaking work, gathering and putting together meticulously researched information and photographs of significant people, places and events, Joaquin, together with acclaimed painter-writer and book designer Alfredo Roces, delivers a compelling narration of the unique and fascinating saga of Malacañang Palace, and the personages that lived, worked and made history in its awesome corridors and halls.

Joaquin traces the history of the palace from its humble beginnings as a small villa that stood on the banks of the Pasig River, to the grand edifice that it is now. Contesting the popular myth that the name "Malacañang" was derived from "*Ma lakan yen* (Where the greats are)," he argues instead that it was actually taken from the original name of the first street called "La Calzada de Malacañang," built on the islet where the forerunner of the present-day palace stood.

The book's collection of vintage photos makes the reader relive the glory days of Philippine history. Joaquin skillfully shares vignettes on the different residents of the Palace, complete with tales of intrigue and power-play.

During the launch, SPPC's officers Regina Coseteng, Narz Lim and Phyllis Zaballero presented a copy of the book, together with a framed photo lifted from among the book's many vintage photos,

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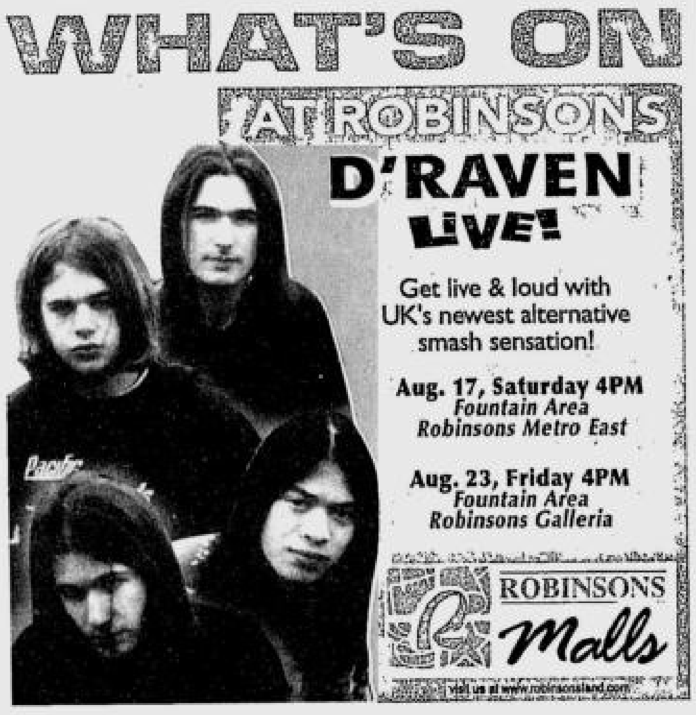

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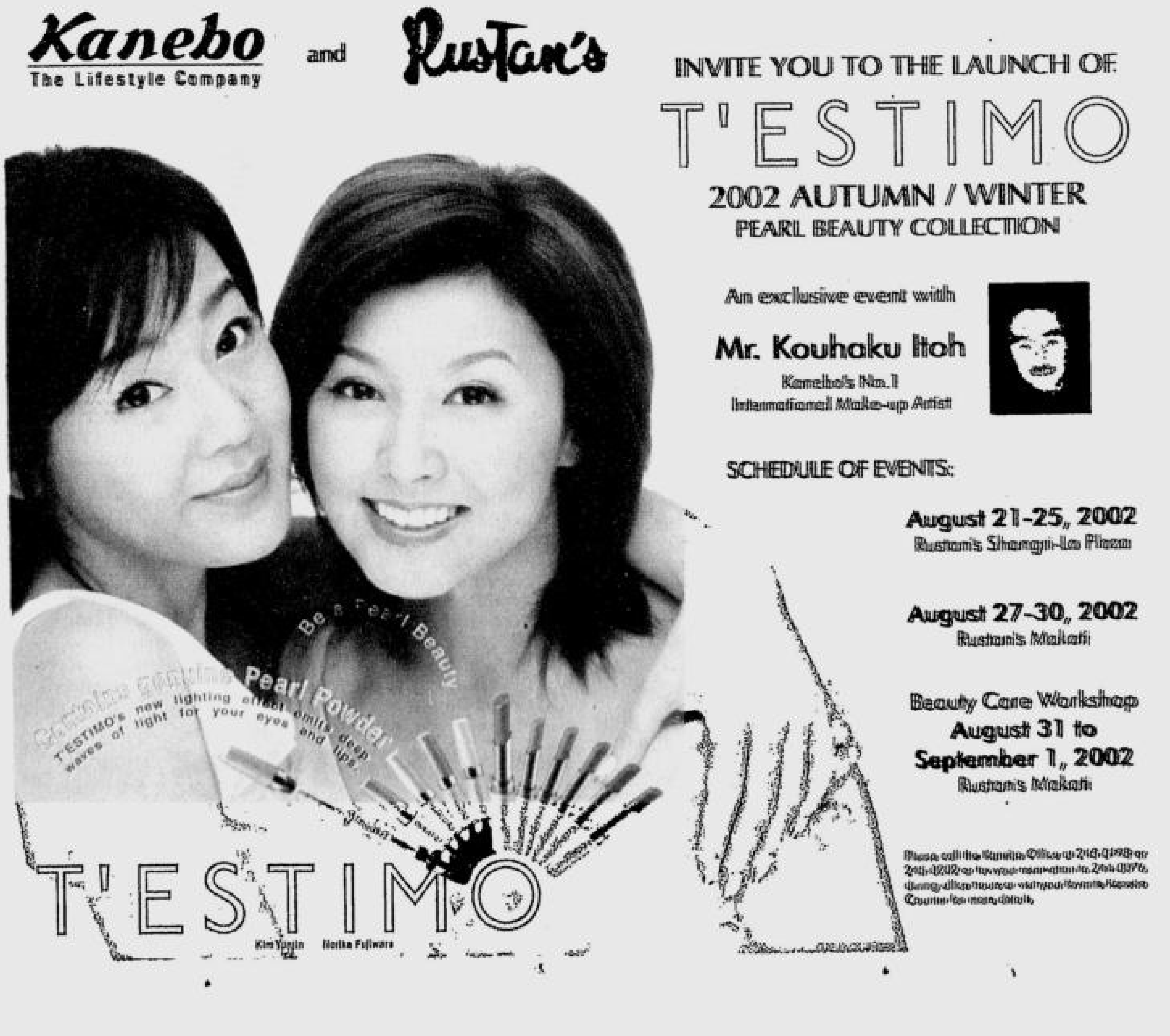

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MANUEL Quezon Avanceña receives a copy of the Quezon family photograph.

LAWYER Manuel Roxas, grandson of the late President Manuel Roxas

CARLOS Garcia Campos, grandson of the late President Carlos P. Garcia

FORMER President Fidel V. Ramos

ELIZABETH Macapagal Mercado, granddaughter of the late President Diosdado Macapagal

Presidential kith and kin through the decades toast *Malacañang*

Nick Joaquin
Palacio de Malacañang
200 Years of a Ruling House

From page E1

to the relatives of the past presidents of the Republic.

Receiving their copies were Manuel Quezon Avanceña, grandson of Manuel L. Quezon; Dr. Sotero Laurel, son of Jose P. Laurel; Rosie Osmeña Valencia, daughter of Sergio Osmena; lawyer Manuel Roxas, grandson of Manuel A. Roxas; Vicky-Quirino Delgado, daughter of Elpidio R. Quirino; Mila Magsaysay Valenzuela, daughter of Ramon Magsaysay; Jose Carlos Garcia Campos, grandson of Carlos P. Garcia; Elizabeth Macapagal Mercado, granddaughter of Diosdado P. Macapagal; and Rep. Imee Marcos, daughter of Ferdinand E. Marcos.

Truly a unique symbol of our cultural heritage and a one-of-a-kind collector's item, "Palacio de Malacañang: 200 Years of a Ruling House" may be purchased for P5,000 per copy through IdeaZ at tel. 400-2387 or 522-5268.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo receives a copy of the book from former President Corazon C. Aquino, chair of the Society for the Preservation of Philippine Culture.

ALFREDO Roces and National Artists F. Sionil Jose and Nick Joaquin

THE OSMEÑA FAMILY. Seated are Rosie Osmeña Valencia and lawyer Ramon Osmeña, children of the late President Sergio Osmeña. Behind are, from left, Annie Aboitiz, Carmelita de Jesus, Dr. Ramon de Jesus, Estefania Enriquez, Marissa del Rosario, Tita Osmeña and Sergio Valencia.

NARZALINA Lim, Phyllis Zaballero and Regina Sy Coseteng, trustees of the Society for the Preservation of Philippine Culture, pose with Alfredo Roces, editor of the book, his wife Irene Roces and Sylvia Montilla.

Singapore throws a big party

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

Amiga

EVEN **Kit Tatad** was there and you know he's not exactly the friendliest person around. But despite the inclement weather, they all came to the big bash organized by Singapore Ambassador **Jacky Foo** and Dr. **Yumian Su** at the ballroom of the Shangri-La, in celebration of Singapore National Day. There were newly appointed Foreign Secretary **Blas Ople**, looking fit as the proverbial fiddle; DBP chair **Simon Paterno**, whose eyes everyone was trying to catch; and **Chuching** and **Marge Tambunting**, although I forgot to ask Chuching how he managed to get embroiled in that sticky business at the Polo Club. It seems the question on everyone's mind is how Chuching's group is going to run the club when they're always out of the country and **Isabel W.** doesn't want to be president.

Paz Yuchengco ran off to another dinner as were Belgian Ambassador **Roland** and **Sylvia Van Remoortele**. But enjoying the Hainanse chicken were Trade Secretary **Mar Roxas**, lawyer **Dick Romulo**, **Mita Rufino** and **Helen Ong** (the pair are off to London for the wedding of Mita and **Tony**'s daughter), Pakistan Ambassador **Hasan** and **Neelan Sarmad** (due to leave for Islamabad soon), US Ambassador **Francis Ricciardone**, **Narda Camacho** and Australian Ambassador **Ruth Pearce**, INQUIRER chair **Marixi Prieto**, and Philippine Star's **Max Soliven**. The rest would take a PLDT directory to mention as the whole ballroom was full of guests relishing the splendiferous buffet and open bar. With auctions by Sotheby's, concerts by internationally acclaimed artists and a rational tourism program, Singapore is now the cultural hub of Southeast Asia.

Did I mention that at least two ambassadors are painters by avocation? Malaysian Ambassador **Mohd Taufik Bin Mohd Noor** and Netherlands Ambassador **Theo Arnold**—a joint exhibit maybe?

SINGAPORE Ambassador Jacky Foo, Papal Nuncio Msgr. Antonio Franco and Foreign Secretary Blas Ople

TRADE Secretary Mar Roxas and US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone

NETHERLANDS Ambassador Theo Arnold with Marge and Chuching Tambunting

MEXICAN Ambassador Enrique Hubbard, T. del Rosario, Tessie Luz and Mariana Hubbard

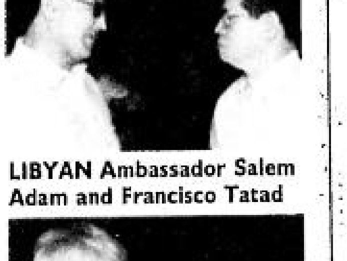
MAX Soliven and Marixi Prieto

VENEZUELAN Ambassador Milena Ramirez and Saudi Ambassador Saleh Mohammad al-Ghamdi

DR. Yumian Su and Ambassador Jacky Foo

NARDA Camacho and Australian Ambassador Ruth Pearce

MICHELINE Jess and Irmgard Krepela



LIBYAN Ambassador Salem Adam and Francisco Tatad

CHILEAN Ambassador Carmen Lynam and Thai Ambassador Busba Bunng

NEW ZEALAND'S Lynda Chanwai-Earle

THE UNITED States' Frank Stewart

INDONESIA'S Sitor Situmorang

Asia-Pacific poets gather in Manila

THE ASIA-PACIFIC Conference-Workshop on Indigenous and Contemporary Poetry, to be conducted this week by the Philippine Literary Arts Council under the auspices of the Japan Foundation, has drawn the participation of notable foreign poets from 12 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

The poetry confab starts tomorrow at the UP Faculty Center Conference Hall, with poet-delegates Lynda Chanwai-Earle of New Zealand and Kirpal Singh of Singapore delivering their papers on the linkages between indigenous verse in their respective homelands and modern poetry.

The Aug. 21 session at Ateneo de Manila University's Escaler Hall will be highlighted by a keynote address by National Artist for Literature Edith L. Tiempo and a specialist's talk by Antoon Postma on the Mangyan *ambahan*.

Poet-delegates Kazuko Shirashi of Japan, Ou Zhide of China, Nor Faridah Abdul Manaf of Malaysia and Harry Aveling of Australia will also deliver their papers.

Headlining the session on Aug. 23 at De La Salle University are Sitor Situmorang of Indonesia, Nguyen Bao Chan of Vietnam, Ko Un of South Korea and Anthony Tan of the Philippines.

The last session on Aug. 24 at University of Santo Tomas will feature Montri Umavijani of Thailand and Frank Stewart of the United States, with the possibility of a Canadian poet-delegate also joining in before the final talk on traditional Filipino verse forms by Likhaan: UP Institute of Creative Writing director Virgilio S. Almario.

Panels of reactors that will be divided among the four session days include UP Mindanao chancellor Ricardo M. de Ungria, Dr. Gemino H. Abad, J. Neil. C. Garcia, Marne Kilates, Ramon C. Sunico, Danton Remoto, Ruel de Vera, Rofel Brion, D.M. Reyes, Dr. Bienvenido Lumbera, Dr. Isagani Cruz, Dr. Oscar Campomanes, Shirley Lua, Dr. Becky Añonuevo, Lito Zulueta, Ramil Digal Gulle, Lourd de Veyra and National Artist for Literature F. Sionil Jose.

Aug. 22 is a break day for the core participants, who will be feted to a luncheon and tour of Corregidor Island courtesy of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon.

JAPAN'S Kazuko Shirashi

The culminating activity will be a grand poetry reading at 6 p.m. at the University of Asia and the Pacific auditorium, followed by a farewell dinner hosted by Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople, who shall also receive the Vicente Sotto Award for Outstanding Writers in Government from Umpil or Writers Union of the Philippines.

THAILAND'S Montri Umavijani

Lecture on history and imagination at UST

PLAYWRIGHT-HISTORIAN Jose Victor Torres will deliver the 7th Associate Lecture Series of the University of Santo Tomas Center for Creative Writing and Studies (CCWS) on Aug. 21, 2 p.m., at the CCWS conference room, G/F St. Raymund of Penafort Building, UST campus.

Torres will deliver a paper on "The Literature of Actuality: Imagination and Historical Writing." Reactors will be Bernardita Reyes-Churchill, Antonio Hila and National Artist F. Sionil Jose.

Torres has received several Palanca awards for his plays, mainly tackling historical themes, which have been staged by the Philippine Educational Theater Association and the Teatro Tomasino. He has authored books on history and drama published by the UST Publishing House. A doctoral candidate in history at the UST Graduate School, he is junior associate for drama of the CCWS and senior researcher of the Intramuros Administration.

The lecture is open to the public. Call 731-3101 local 8281.

Cory Aquino in 'Skeptics' Mass on Aug. 25

FORMER President Corazon Aquino will join "Sundays for Skeptics," the Jesuit Communications' TV Mass, on Aug. 25 to share her reflections on the Christian life—and the Filipino life—as exemplified by her husband, the late Benigno Aquino Jr.

"He suffered imprisonment for seven years and seven months [during the martial law regime]," Aquino says. "And [in] those seven years and seven months, Ninoy learned so much from his suffering. [He would quote 2Cor. 12:10] 'For the sake of Christ, I will accept weakness, insults, hardships, persecutions and calamities, for when I am weak then I am strong.' And how true it was!"

Join "Sundays for Skeptics" on Aug. 25, 8-9 a.m. on Studio 23.

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'CALAMBA 1888' AT PUP
Amalia Cullarin Rosales' adaptation of National Artist for Literature Severino Montano's "Parting at Calamba" goes on stage at Bulwagang Balagtas of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines on Aug. 21-27 with performances at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. It stars Ihman Esturko as Rizal (second from right), veteran actress Rustica Carpio as Doña Teodora (second from left), Kriztine Viray as Saturnina, and Ces Aldaba as Padre Dalmacio (center).

Powerful activities as bookstore turns 5

POWERBOOKS Specialty Store celebrates its fifth anniversary this month with a special Power Sale until Sept. 1, with up to 70-percent off on all books at PowerBooks Arnaiz, Megamall, Alabang Town Center and Glorietta. Plus, for every P2,500 worth of single-day purchase during the sale period in any PowerBooks branch, customers will get a free PowerBooks umbrella and an Inside PowerBooks magazine containing the latest book recommendations.

PowerBooks has also lined up several great events for this month.

Bob Rosner book signing

PowerBooks held a special book signing with best-selling author and international speaker Bob Rosner on Aug. 14 at PowerBooks Arnaiz. Enthusiasts met "Dilbert with a Solution" and got their copies of "The Boss's Survival Guide" and "Working Wounded" signed.

Pol Medina's 'Pugad Baboy' launch

Pol Medina, creator of beloved "Pugad Baboy," launched his latest compilation—"Pugad Baboy 14"—and signed copies of his best-selling comic books on Aug. 17 at PowerBooks Megamall.

Cory Quirino's 'Forever Young' book signing

Cory Quirino, TV celebrity, columnist and author of the beauty and wellness guidebook, "Forever Young," will visit PowerBooks Megamall on Aug. 24, 4-6 p.m., to sign copies of her book. Freebies will be given with copies sold during the signing, and a special 10-percent discount will be given for every copy of "Forever Young" sold during the day.

Power poets poetry reading: 'Wet, Wet, Wet'

Join a night of fantastic impromptu poetry and readings on Aug. 24, 6 p.m., at PowerBooks Arnaiz, 2/F special events area. Read your own poems or another's with this month's theme "Wet, Wet, Wet!"

Call 844-4455 or e-mail ibid@powerbooks.com.ph.

Ateneo, JesCom join bookfair

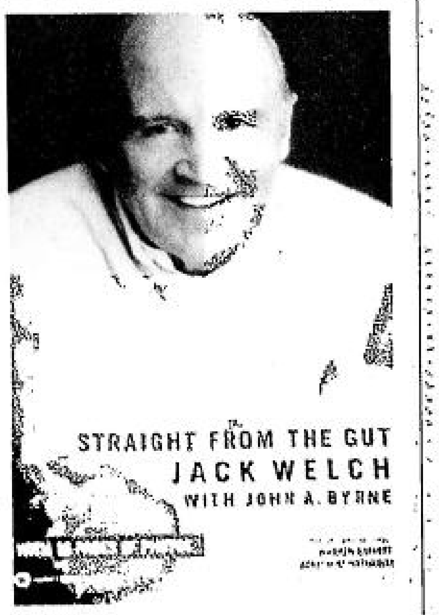
JESUIT Communications (JesCom) teams up with the Ateneo de Manila University Press to offer quality books and music at the Philippine Bookfair Aug. 31-Sept. 8, 5/F Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

JesCom has created a following among the MTV generation through its inspiring and thought-provoking videotapes with religious and educational messages. It also produces liturgical and inspirational music in Filipino, English and Mandarin Chinese in CDs, cassette tapes and songbooks, which have become very popular among congregations and schools of all levels.

JesCom has ventured into print, with books such as "How Can I Find God," edited by James Martin, S.J.; "Bringing the Imitation of Christ into the 21st Century" by William Meninger, OCSO; "The Greatest King" by Disney animators Mike Onghai and Jerry Ching; and "Generation" by Fr. Santos Mena, S.J.

The Ateneo Press has long been known to publish literary and social science titles on society and culture. It will display recent releases as well as titles on its back list during the bookfair, and will launch new books on Aug. 31 and Sept. 6.

Visitors to the Ateneo Press and JesCom booth will enjoy special discounts on all books, tapes and other items. Call the Ateneo Press at 426-5984, JesCom at 426-5971, or Primetrade at 896-0695.



POWERBOOKS shows you the business ropes with its August book of the month, "Jack Straight from the Gut," by the business guru Jack Welch. Welch, legendary CEO of General Electric, has impressed the business community with his innovative ideas and strategies. Weathering through decades of business upheaval and storms, he has proved himself to be one of the most admired business leaders in the world.

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